

UNIVERSITY OF  
**NORTH ALABAMA**  
MAGAZINE



**FOR ALUMNI AND  
FRIENDS OF UNA**  
FALL 2018 • VOLUME 26  
NUMBER 2

UNIVERSITY OF  
**NORTH ALABAMA**  
MAGAZINE

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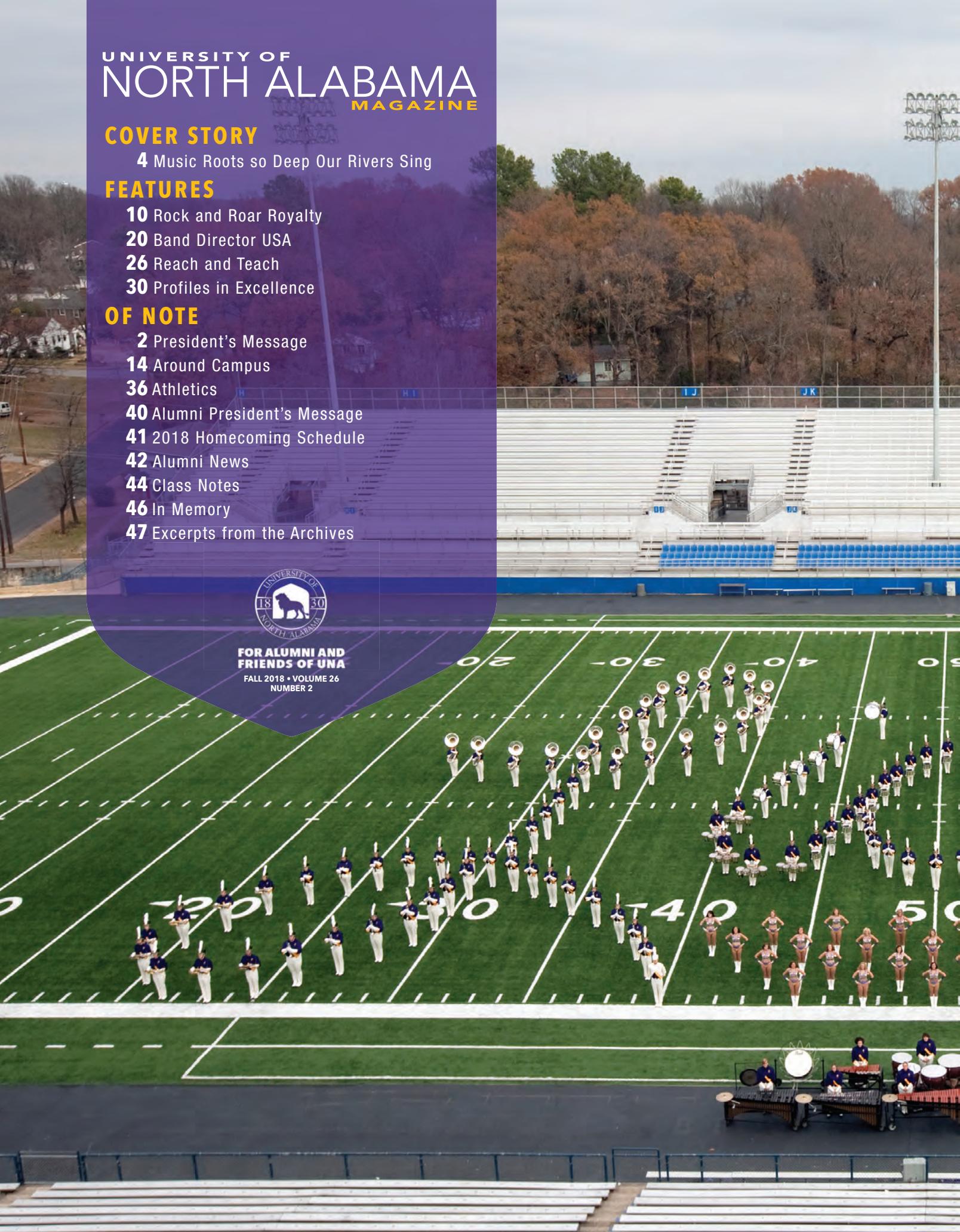
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# UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA

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MAGAZINE

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Kenneth D. Kitts

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Kenneth D. Kitts

magical time on UNA's campus. We're always thrilled to see our alumni return to relive old memories and create new ones. This year's Homecoming theme is "It's Time to Rock and Roar," bringing home the idea that music is at the heart of everything we do in the Shoals. In fact, music is the theme for this edition of the *UNA Magazine*.

You'll read how **April Clark**, an '02 graduate of the College of Education and Human Sciences, uses rock music to reach students in Colbert County, and how Drs. Edd and **Lloyd '92 Jones** have created a family legacy through the marching band. The classics are also well represented: the Shoals Symphony at UNA, Collegiate Singers, and UNA Opera keep Norton Auditorium packed. From the amazing artists graduating from our Entertainment Industry program to the band directors we produce, music permeates every facet of the UNA campus.

Great music, great people, and a great university are important parts of the magic that makes the Shoals such a distinctive region. Dena and I hope you will return to campus this fall to experience that magic and to take pride in your alma mater. We are grateful for your continued support of UNA.

Roar Lions!  
Ken Kitts

As you know from our spring edition, we recently completed our comprehensive campaign. The story featured on page 14 recaps the campaign's highlights and underscores its importance to UNA's future. Once more, please know how thankful we are for your generosity.

This fall culminates an especially exciting transition as our Athletics department enters the Division I ranks. We've added new coaches and new sports, and we're ready to add some DI wins. Our Lions are prepared to compete at the next level, and we hope you will be there to cheer them on during this historic season.

Fall also brings Homecoming, a truly



## UNIVERSITY ENCOURAGES TIMELY GRADUATION WITH **'Finish in Four'** INITIATIVE

Officials with the University of North Alabama are hoping a new initiative will create additional pathways for student success, ensure timely graduation and reduce student debt.

The University's new "Finish in Four" campaign will incentivize students to graduate within four years while also increasing retention and improving graduation rates. A central component of the initiative is the University's proposed banded tuition plan, which offers one rate for students taking 12-18 credit hours.

The Board of Trustees' Finance, Facilities and Personnel Committee agreed with the proposal at its meeting earlier this week, and the measure was approved by the full Board at its quarterly meeting June 13.

"We have a moral obligation to students, parents, and the community to graduate our students in four years," said Dr. Ross Alexander, vice president for Academic Affairs and provost.

Alexander said a four-year graduation timeline will help reduce the debt burden for students and families.

"College should be a four-year commitment. If our students are here longer than four years, we want them to earn a graduate degree."

UNA recently unveiled its Accelerated Master's Program (AMP) through which students can earn both baccalaureate and graduate degrees within five years in a variety of programs: [una.edu/graduate/amp](http://una.edu/graduate/amp)

Because of trustee approval, for the first time in a decade, UNA was able to

avoid a fall tuition increase thanks to the banded tuition model.

Under the new plan, there will be one rate based on the current cost of 15 credit hours.

University President Dr. Kenneth Kitts commended the Board of Trustees for its openness to ideas that can keep tuition affordable and ensure student success.

"Our board is dedicated to maintaining a fair and competitive tuition rate for current and future UNA students. I applaud their tradition of leadership on this important issue," Kitts said.

The banded tuition plan is intended for full-time undergraduates only and will not affect part-time or graduate students.





Music roots  
so deep even  
our rivers  
sing

The drive from Nashville to Florence begins on the interstate, with the road eventually narrowing to a two-lane highway and finally a single strip of asphalt that runs along the Tennessee River. Right about the time that you cross the Alabama state line, the Nashville radio stations begin to fade away, their signals replaced by the funkier, greasier music of Muscle Shoals. Even the songs on the gospel stations feature horn sections. The Tennessee has been known as "the singing river" since the Yuchie Tribe camped on its banks and heard what they thought was the lilting voice of a woman in its flowing water.

Former Lynyrd Skynyrd guitarist Ed King had the last word before the closing credits of the breakthrough 2013 documentary *Muscle Shoals* that shined a light on five decades of amazing music coming out of the region, and he has a definite idea about the connection between the music and the water. "The Shoals is special mostly because it's the birthplace of so many classic tunes. The fact that so much water is involved is because music and the outside waters flow together. It's one of those places that players flock to."

The Shoals has always been a musical place, and the University of North



Walt Aldridge '78



Dr. Bob Garfrerick

Alabama is an important part of that legacy of sound. Not only does much of the day-to-day life of the University revolve around music, but its Department of Entertainment Industry trains the next generation of musicians, producers and entrepreneurs as well as contributing a steady stream of talent to the studios in the area that continue to create the present and future of the Muscle Shoals sound.

Dr. Bob Garfrerick is the chair of the Department of Entertainment Industry and is charged with educating around 175 DEI majors in the program. Working out of a building on Tombigbee Street in downtown Florence, Garfrerick recognizes the value of the department being located in the Shoals. "This area has such a rich musical and cultural heritage," he said. "We try to maintain strong ties to locals in the industry. We have a lot of interaction with our alumni who volunteer to be panelists and guest speakers. They're so loyal to us that they'll routinely drive from Nashville to come speak to a class and interact with our students." Plus you never know who you'll meet just hanging out near



Gary Baker

the department. "You'll meet some odd characters walking around town," Bob said, "and then you'll find out they toured with the Beatles."

**Walt Aldridge '78** is another faculty member in the Department of Entertainment Industry, an alumnus of UNA and an Alabama Music Hall of Fame songwriter with dozens of hits to his credit. His office is decorated with plaques recognizing his achievements as a songsmith, but also with inspirational signs preaching the value of hard work and persistence. In addition to teaching students about the artistic side of songwriting, Aldridge preaches the importance of a solid work ethic. "A lot of young people come into the program thinking that they were the best musician in their hometown, so this should be easy for them. Pursuing success involves outworking the competition. You have to get up early and stay up later!"

Gary Baker is a Florence resident and one of the most successful songwriters in country and pop music history. Baker is a big fan of Aldridge's attitude toward hard work. "Walt's been one of my best teachers. You have to work at songwriting like any other job. You have to use the tool or it gets rusty. I believe that the University is teaching that to the kids."

Baker is intimately involved in the connection between Florence, the

Shoals, and the University. In fact, he recently sold the building that houses the DEI after years of leasing his former studio space for students to use. Aldridge foresaw the benefits of this years ago. "We've always had a desire to be more visible. That's why we have a storefront here, more of a face in the community. We rely on community support, and they depend on us graduating a talented workforce for them."

Baker agrees. "It's a great move for both me and the University. It was my dream! The sole reason I built that studio was to keep the young talent here and watch them develop. I've hired 6-7 of them, and they've all gone on to do great things in the music business. I believe that kids will continue to come through and be successful. When I lecture at the University, you can tell the ones that there's no way they're not going to be in the business."

As co-founders of independent record label Single Lock Records, **John Paul White '99** and Ben Tanner (along with Will Trapp) started up their new business with some of their specific goals being to record Alabama talent and offer opportunities for DEI grads. Tanner grew up in the Shoals and attended classes at UNA while still in high school. He has seen some changes in his years in the area. "The University has really increased

their engagement with the community over the past years, thanks to Bob and Walt and others. What we're trying to do with Single Lock is give the young talent a reason to stay as a viable option. It used to feel like you had to leave to make it, but it's not like that anymore."

Baker fought the urge to move away to Nashville for years. "Back in the early '80s, I used to get dropped off at the bus station early on Monday mornings. I'd work and sleep on couches in Nashville and come back home on Fridays. It was hard. My publisher and my co-writers wanted me to move, and I even put a deposit on a house near Nashville but cancelled it later. When I was accepting my second Songwriter of the Year award, my publisher made a comment that he guessed it was okay for me to stay in Florence. It was working for me."

But how does the University and the local music community work to keep graduates involved with the local music scene in today's atmosphere of instant gratification and short attention spans? Some of the reasons are quite pragmatic. Garfrerick preaches that technology has altered the past norms of the music industry. "Thanks to the modernity of the business, the world has gotten smaller. It used to be that once you reached success, you'd have to move closer to the infrastructure of the industry in Nashville, New York or L.A. Now the songwriting industry is smaller than it used to be, and the touring industry is more robust than it's ever been."

White recognizes the advantages of living and working closer to UNA. "People love the low cost of living and the low crime rate. Florence is an easy drive to Birmingham, Atlanta, Nashville, and Memphis. It's easy to tour from your



John Paul White '99 and Ben Tanner



back porch. When people say we're in the middle of nowhere, I say we're in the middle of everywhere!"

Aldridge jokes about the cost of living, "My housing is half of what I'd pay in Nashville, but my ASCAP checks are the same." He also sees personal reasons that grads are choosing to stay in the area. "There's a misconception the kids have that they'll have to make country music if they move to Nashville. I went through that myself, and then I went to Nashville where I found people that were doing what I wanted to do. Students stick around because of that fear. This is closer to home than Nashville and they want to keep one foot in what's familiar."

Bob Garfrerick spent plenty of time

in Nashville before settling into a faculty position at UNA. "I love it here. You can live more cheaply and be surrounded by creativity. In Nashville, I felt like I had to compete with everyone else who got off the Greyhound bus today. We're developing a creative environment with a cool indie record scene. I've been doing this for 30 years, but I think our students' aspirations have changed. They'd like to find an indie label and be an entrepreneur."

Baker shares that he loves the pace of work and life in the Shoals. "We're not on a hard clock here. Muscle Shoals works on a different schedule. Even players from Nashville know when they come down here that we'll get our work done without

a clock. I bought 350 acres on the bluff in Sheffield, and it changed my life. It's the best thing I ever did for myself, not just for my psyche, but for my business. I'm glad I didn't move to Nashville."

The Department of Entertainment Industry recognizes the music business is constantly evolving, in fact that's why they changed the name of the department to encompass more than just music performance and engineering. Baker has seen a lot of changes in the business, but the Shoals keeps up with the new waves, in large part because of what's happening at the University. "The resilience of the area is unbelievable. The songwriting scene used to be huge, and people were getting cuts left and right. Now it's swinging back to where new artists are being developed. It's a different ballgame for songwriters. There's not the money in songwriting that there used to be. We need to teach them that there are more avenues than just writing songs. We need to help them figure out how to generate income in other ways. Heck, we learned how to write for ringtones!"

While the ringtone industry might not be robust anymore, Garfrerick and the rest of the faculty are always trying to stay on top of the next big thing. "Change moves at such a blistering pace that what I taught my students last year may not be relevant at the heights of their careers. Our future is to continue to evolve where music intersects with other entertainment. We're putting more emphasis on live performance and touring because that's where the revenue is, and we've added sports management to the department because content is content. The income stream from inside an arena can come from a different constituency whether it's from a Brad Paisley concert or a tractor pull."

He continued, "We keep the department small so that all the faculty will know you by your name, and we encourage students to take a breadth of coursework that will give them the experience to be employable across a range of professions. For me, keeping up with change is what makes my life and career rewarding; that's what keeps me young. I can remember buying the first MP3 player that came out for the department. It held like 60 songs, and we all looked at it like it had come from outer space. The danger to being so connected is that it becomes an end instead of a tool. Our students have access to so much knowledge, but Google doesn't give you context. Our challenge as educators is to convince students that knowledge is context and that we live in a human world."

John Paul White lauds the University for providing the base he needed to become an extremely successful songwriter, performer and producer. "UNA was a huge catalyst in my career. I didn't grow up in marching band, so I was initially pretty clueless in music theory classes. I didn't know what chord I was playing half the time. But I was able to take the rudimentary tools I had and what I knew about lyrics and chord structures and use them to learn how to work with people I didn't know. I walked out being able to hold my own without looking like a fool."

Aldridge also emphasizes the growth that can only happen when you are surrounded by talented new influences. "College is the time you begin to throw off the chains of peer pressure. You begin to experiment and might decide 'I like jazz,' or 'I like classical.' You become receptors of all sorts of influences. That's when cool things happen!"

White believes the Shoals and the people teaching in the Department of Entertainment Industry offer a unique opportunity for students to learn how to craft great music. "The secret of the 'Muscle Shoals Sound' is that there was no secret or no sound. People just made the best records they could. They didn't insist on putting a stamp on it. They just concentrated on what best served this song and this artist at this moment in time. Our generation fed off of these talented producers and soaked it up and just focused on the song."

At Single Lock Records, Tanner keeps his partner's mantra in mind. "We try to involve ourselves with good people and stay song-focused. For a long time, the general attitude was to look at all this stuff we did, pride in the past. There's been a turn recently that we're still proud, but we're doing good stuff right now! And we want to do this for the next generation. It's a good feeling to be here right now. It's hopeful and forward-looking. We want to hang on to stuff from the past that's classic, but you don't want to be a relic. We strive to be steeped in tradition but without worshipping or fetishizing the past. We want to stay true to what made us want to be here in the first place, but not stuck in the mud."

It's true that the Singing River may have a muddy bottom, but it always keeps moving through the Shoals like the music flowing through the University of North Alabama.

# ROCK and ROAR ROYALTY

## WALT ALDRIDGE '78

It's easy to see Walt Aldridge as an unassuming man. He's relatively quiet and his movement belies his tall frame. However, when he picks up the guitar, it all makes sense. Walt Aldridge can write songs. And not just your typical songs, but songs that impact people.

As one of UNA's most famous alumni, Aldridge has received his fair share of praise, but quite simply he deserves it.

In 2017, the man who said he's "always been drawn to music and playing the guitar," was inducted into the Nashville Song Writers Hall of Fame, a real who's who of country music in America. And there's Walt, up there with the rest of them.

All told, Aldridge has written or co-written seven number one records, and made the charts 56 times. Including "Modern Day Bonnie and Clyde," "(There's) No Gettin' Over Me," "Til You're Gone," "Holding Her and Loving You," and "I Loved Her First."

Add in 17 years at the world-renowned FAME studios and multiple years of teaching students at the University of North Alabama the craft that is song writing, and Aldridge has had a career that most dream of.

But there's awards, and then there's awards. When you hail from Alabama, a place rich with musical heritage, there's something to be said about the Alabama Music Hall of Fame. Aldridge conquered that, as this past February he was inducted into that too!

More accolades are sure to come in Aldridge's lifetime, but it's certainly okay to celebrate the ones that are already here!



Walt Aldridge



Mark Narmore

## MARK NARMORE '88

Mark Narmore is a 1988 commercial music graduate from UNA. Some of his teachers were professionals such as Terry Woodford and Kevin Lamb. Halfway through his college career he signed an exclusive songwriting deal with FAME having hit singles on groups

like Shenandoah with the solely written "Moon Over Georgia" and Blackhawk's "Like There Ain't No Yesterday," co-written with Walt Aldridge. Mark spent 11 years at FAME before moving onto a succession of Nashville publishers including Reba McEntire's Starstruck Music Group, March Music, Jody Williams Music, SONY ATV/Tree, and currently Noble Vision Music Group. He has had more than 82 major songs recorded in his 32 plus year career, including 14 recordings co-written with country superstar Josh Turner. Mark co-wrote Craig Morgan's five week number one country song "That's What I Love

About Sunday," which was named as Billboards top song at radio in 2005 and their number 8 song for the 2000s decade.

Mark is represented with a display in the songwriter area at the Alabama Music Hall of Fame and also has a bronze star in the lobby as a salute to his accomplishments. He recently had a song he co-wrote with Jessi Jo Dillon and Brandy Clark on Brandy's current record which was nominated for a Grammy. He also had multiple songs on Shenandoah's Christian CD which was nominated for the coveted Dove award. Mark is proud of his Shoals upbringing and is heavily involved in tourism and promotion of the University and of Shoals music, historic and current, wherever he travels.



Melvin Baldwin

## MELVIN BALDWIN '88

There is definitely something to be said about "honoring the song." This is exactly what Melvin Baldwin does. "Melly" as he is known in the music industry, is and has always been adamant about learning an artist's music first and then adding the live feel to it without stepping over the lines. He is truly an artist's drummer.

Melly began studying the snare drum at the age of nine in his hometown of Waukegan, Illinois. A few years later he began playing set. Later, Melly obtained a full music scholarship to UNA where he obtained dual degrees in management and marketing. While at the University, Melly participated in the marching band, concert band, percussion ensemble, and most importantly jazz ensemble. This is when he became serious about set playing. Since graduating Melly has worked nonstop to become the rock solid time keeper that he is today.

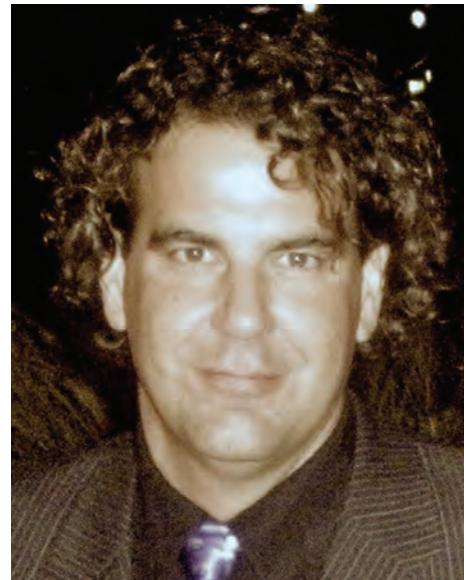
Now making his home in the metro Atlanta area, Melly is currently touring with R&B artist Johnny Gill, soloist and member of the R&B super group New Edition; but his resume doesn't stop there. Mel has toured and performed extensively with the following artists: New Edition, Bell Biv DeVoe (BBD), Bobby Brown, Avery Sunshine, EnVogue, Keith Sweat, Eric Essix, The Indigo Girls, The S.O.S Band, Toni Redd, Dionne Farris, and pop sensation Justin Bieber to name a few. He has also appeared in several music videos and can be heard on a host of recording and music soundtracks.

His resume also includes appearances on the following television shows:

The Today Show  
The Tonight Show  
Late Night with David Letterman  
Saturday Night Live  
The View  
The X Factor (US & UK)  
Dancing with the Stars  
The Oprah Winfrey  
Ellen DeGeneres  
The Tom Joyner Morning Show  
The Steve Harvey Show

Melly's touring performances have taken him to seven continents and hundreds of countries around the world. But what he is most proud of are his accomplishments closer to home. In 2016, he was included and featured in the Alabama Music Hall of Fame as an accomplished drummer. Melly was honored and humbled with being able to return to the University as a guest performer with the UNA Jazz ensemble at the 2017 President's Spring Concert.

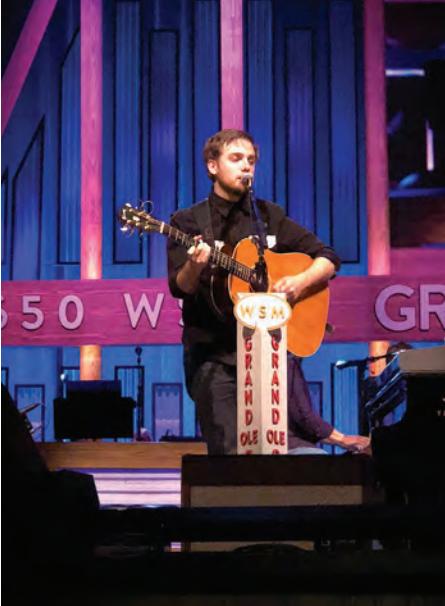
When Mel isn't touring he can be found in his recording studio where he spends time producing and engineering other artists. He also utilizes his business and management degrees as the owner of 3-B Interior Painting Solutions.



Markus Anthony Hall

## MARKUS ANTHONY HALL '85

Markus Hall is the co-owner and chair of FAME Music Publishing and House of FAME Music. He is a 33-year veteran of the music industry and an award winning songwriter and father. The company has been awarded 43 ASCAP, BMI or SESAC Awards during his tenure. In the mid-nineties, the companies won back-to-back-to-back Song of the Year awards by the CMA, the Grammys, and his song "I Like it, I Love It" was awarded Song of the Year by American Songwriter Magazine. The song has been the Nashville Predator's Goal song for every home goal of the franchise's history and has been recently featured regularly in the Stanley Cup Playoffs. More recently, the company has published Jason Isbell for most of his career as he has ascended to become the superstar of the Americana genre. To date, Jason has won four Grammy awards and "Alabama Pines," a FAME song, won Americana Song of the Year in 2012. Markus Hall lives in Nashville with his wife Jessica and four children: Sara, Sam, Parker and Pierce.



Dillon Hodges

## FIREKID • DILLON HODGES '12

Known as firekid, the universe brought Dillon Hodges and Heidi Feek together based on their shared love for making the old new again. They were introduced by a mutual friend who recognized the connection: Hodges' music aimed to mix elements of bluegrass and pop, Feek's a culmination of trail songs and pop. But as their discography develops, firekid strays farther and farther away from being just a genre-bending folk pop band. That's evident in XY, their new four-song EP influenced by vintage hip hop production and 90s country songs. Meanwhile, the album showcases the refined skill of both members as individual musicians and gives listeners a glimpse of their personal lives, more specifically—loss. With both Hodges and Feek emerging from divorce and grieving the death of loved ones, XY is firekid's exploration of those feelings, finding happiness, and learning how to appreciate the small victories.

Originally a moniker for his solo project, firekid began with Dillon Hodges. Growing up in Florence, Alabama, an 11 year old Hodges first mentioned playing guitar but his parents were skeptical that he would stick with it. After being gifted a \$10 guitar his uncle bought at a yard sale, family friend Mark Campbell agreed to teach him the basics. "I wanted to learn how to play Creed, but he didn't know what that was. He said, 'If you want to take lessons from me, then you're gonna learn how to play bluegrass.'" His parents began



Rachel Wammack

## RACHEL WAMMACK '16

taking him to bluegrass guitar contests throughout malls in smalltown America, competing against fellow pickers in the Southeast, and at 17, Hodges became the second youngest person ever to win the National Flatpicking Championship. "It's all I ever wanted and it changed my life. I came home and told my high school friends, 'I won the National Flatpicking Championship!' and they asked me what that was. It was humbling," he explains, "But I needed to find a new goal, and I decided that it would be to bring bluegrass to a larger audience." And out of that, firekid was born.

A 2012 UNA graduate, Hodges released his debut, self-titled firekid album on Atlantic Records in 2015 and has toured nationally, performing at many of the nation's premier music festivals in Bonnaroo, The Hangout Fest, South by Southwest, and Lollapalooza.

The new version of firekid, with Hodges and Feek, made its debut appearance on the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville in July. "We met because we were both, independently, trying to modernize traditional music. No one else we knew was doing that. It was such a special thing that we found each other," Feek says.

Possessing a warm, soulful voice and a sassy but sweet Southern spirit that makes her instantly feel like a longtime friend, Rachel Wammack is poised to be country music's next "it girl." "I've always loved music," says Wammack, who first caught the attention of Sony A&R exec Jim Catino when she was performing in Muscle Shoals as a teen. Though she and her dad traveled to Nashville to meet with Catino about a deal, Wammack chose to delay moving to Music City. "I stayed home, went to college and performed almost every single weekend at a different restaurant, wedding, private event, anywhere I could. If a restaurant didn't have music, I would ask them if they could have music and me be that music," the 23-year-old says. "I love performing out. Don't ask me if I like songwriting or performing better because I don't know, but I have a heart for both."

Wammack graduated from the University of North Alabama with a degree in professional writing. During her junior year she was named Miss UNA, and went on to compete in the Miss Alabama pageant where she won the talent portion of the competition. After graduation, she moved to Music City and in a short period of time had



Darryl Worley

six publishing offers. Of course, when fielding label deals, the choice was easy. Under the guidance of her early champion Jim Catino, she signed with RCA Records.

Helmed by award-winning producer Dann Huff, Wammack's debut EP spotlights a young artist with a potent voice and impressive songwriting chops. The project includes the poignant ballad, "Damage," which she co-wrote with Tom Douglas and David Hodges, the vibrant single "Hard to Believe;" and "My Boyfriend," an empowering female anthem declaring "my boyfriend doesn't speak for me anymore." "All my songs are very personal," she says. "If it's coming out on my album, it's going to be personal and a way that someone can get to know me. I hope people will be able to relate."

Wammack also hopes to represent her hometown well. "I do hope that people from Muscle Shoals will be proud of the music that I make because they were the people who supported me throughout high school and college," she said. "I am just praying that I'm making music that they can stand behind and go, 'There's our girl! There's our Muscle Shoals girl!'"

## DARRYL WORLEY '87

Born and raised in southern Tennessee by a Methodist minister and a church-choir mom he describes as a "prayer warrior," Worley started his musical career at the FAME Studio in Muscle Shoals, under the tutelage of producer/publisher Rick Hall (Mac Davis, Jerry Reed), where he remained for a solid five years. He played clubs almost nightly, honing his stage craft at the same time he was woodshedding his songwriting skills, and as Worley gained confidence, he found his way to Nashville. There, he secured a recording deal in 1999 on the basis of some demo recordings that showcased his authoritative vocals and his understanding of the hard-working country audience.

He discovered, however, that the music business didn't share the depth of his passion for that old-school sound. Numerous voices in Nashville were pushing him to sing more contemporary songs and to co-write more often with well-known composers. The songs from the demo that got him signed were tossed in favor of other material that may have fit the trends, but didn't quite suit him. So Worley put his foot down. "No" proved to be a powerful word. The powers that be

came after him, relented on their creative demands and – lo and behold – several of those songs from the demo ended up becoming his first hits. His inaugural album landed three Top 20 titles – "When You Need My Love," "A Good Day To Run" and "Second Wind" – and his second album's namesake, "I Miss My Friend," brought his first #1 single.

Worley has clearly made a difference in his neighborhood, using his celebrity to improve the lives of the people around him. It's the same goal he's applied to his music, whether it's honoring soldiers in "Have You Forgotten?" seeking positivity in "Awful, Beautiful Life" or celebrating responsibility in "Family Tree." Those messages are all present in the Greatest portion of Second Wind, and the Latest songs continue the pattern. "It's Good To Be Me" locates the elusive silver lining in life, "Runnin'" finds meaning in obsessive activity and "Lonely Alone" encourages honesty in times of personal hardship.



Dr. Deborah Shaw '82

What a year for the University of North Alabama! As you know, our comprehensive campaign closed the end of April of this year. With a significant increase in donor gifts and pledges, we raised over \$36M, which has led the University to improve services, construct new buildings, create new and stronger academic programs, and provide a record number of scholarships to deserving students. For UNA to continue to grow and flourish, our work is not done. As the University continues their work on a five-year strategic plan, we will use that as a guide to determine our next fundraising priorities. The University has created a strong momentum, and we want and need to keep the energy alive in order to continue our work. We sincerely ask you to do your part by staying engaged with UNA, and supporting our great University.

Please mark your calendar for UNA's Homecoming festivities, which will take place Oct. 11 - 13. As a proud alumnae of this institution, it brings me great joy to see former Lions back on campus. I think you will be amazed at how much it has changed through the years! The growth has been intentional, slow and managed, which has overall made the changes extremely positive.



I would also like to draw your attention to the articles in this edition about our musical heritage. The Shoals is rich with art, culture and especially music, and the University of North Alabama plays a large role in that. From our amazing faculty, to our graduates who have gone on to become stars, all the way to the friends of the institution that come back to give our students a taste of the "real world," music is a big part of what we do.

I ask that you never forget one of our graduates, Major Dwayne Williams, who lost his life in the Pentagon on Tuesday, September 11, 2001, a day forever etched in our memory. He died honorably, serving his Army, his country and his fellow soldiers. Dwayne received a full athletic scholarship to play football at UNA. He later served in the Gulf War. This hero is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. We must never forget.

Last but not least, thank you. Thank you for your support of this institution and our students. We could not do it without you!

Roar Lions!  
**Debbie Shaw '82**  
Vice President for Advancement &  
Executive Director UNA Foundation

## "Build the Pride" CAMPAIGN UPDATE

To say the "Build the Pride" comprehensive campaign was wildly successful would be an understatement. Initially a goal of \$25 million was set, however that amount was not only reached in record time, but exceeded. In spring 2018, UNA proudly announced that over \$36.67 million had been raised in five short years. Funds are being used for both student and professor endowments, campus building projects such as the Mitchell Burford Science and Technology building, the Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions, transitioning to a DI certified university, and more. These cutting edge initiatives were made possible by the generosity of alumni, friends of the university, and members of the community.

Build the Pride was the first comprehensive campaign the University of North Alabama ever conducted, and the university's largest fundraising effort to date. University campaigns are generally meant to address campus priorities that would otherwise not be met with state funding alone. The primary distinction between a traditional fundraiser and a campaign is simple - distinct and clear goal setting.

Campaigns help give donors a visualization of exactly where their money will go. Comprehensive campaigns such as Build the Pride hone in on what donors are most interested in improving and creating at a university as opposed to capital campaigns, which are limited to building projects.

Before opening the Build the Pride campaign to the public, members of the University administration met with potential donors to ensure that the donor wants aligned with university needs. These interests ranged from professorships to endowed speaker series scholarships, endowed research funds, and more.

In order to help better understand the donors, UNA hired gift officers like Barbie Terry who would consult with donors and secure the donations. As is the case with most campaigns, Terry and



other members of the university met face-to-face with several donors and listened to the different insight each could provide.

"One thing that made this campaign in particular so successful was support not only from the foundation office but from the academic side as well," said Barbie Terry, UNA college development gift officer. "The deans even got on the road and met potential donors with us. That type of support from the deans helps give the donor an understanding of how their money truly supports our students and faculty."

When UNA President Ken Kitts arrived on campus as the new commander in chief, he said he was pleased to find the University was very close to reaching the initial \$25 million goal.

"We met our goal more quickly than anyone had anticipated. But I liked what I was seeing and hearing about UNA, and I believed those that loved the university would be eager to help enhance it," Kitts said. "It was my confidence in UNA and the love I saw for it throughout the community that pushed us to keep the

campaign open for another ten million dollars.

"The last few million of any campaign is typically the most difficult to raise, so we allowed ourselves three more years to reach that goal. It was wonderfully affirming for me when we not only raised, but exceeded our goal in only two years. My wife Dena and I have been completely overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and support our community has for this university," he said.

According to Dr. Debbie Shaw, vice president for University Advancement and executive director of the UNA Foundation, the majority of the \$36.7 million was raised by a very small group of donors, but the final portion was made up of the donors who gave \$5,000 or less.

In total 7,498 individuals donated. This means that of the \$36.7 million that was donated, 498 donations were larger than \$5,000, while 7,000 of the 7,498 individuals who gave made contributions under \$5,000.

"This proves that every dollar counts, not just the larger donations. The

masses really came together to make this happen," Shaw said.

Once pledges were secured, the University was able to move forward with the naming opportunities. After all, what better way to show your appreciation for a donor who's helping change your institution for the better?

As a direct result of the campaign, two new building projects were able to be funded and named. The Mitchell Burford Science and Technology Building, and Laura M. Harrison Hall, which upon completion will house the Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions.

The fundraising initiative for Laura M. Harrison Hall was a major part of the campaign from the beginning, as the nursing program is currently housed in the already crowded Stevens Hall. The Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions is consistently ranked as one of the best programs in the state. UNA Nursing can boast at one point a higher pass rate for the NCLEX than all other public universities in Alabama, as well as a higher pass rate than the national average.

So it makes sense to provide the program with a state-of-the-art facility as more prospective nursing students continue to look to UNA.

Another significant portion of campaign funds went towards the construction of the Mitchell Burford Science and Technology Building. Ground was broken May 6, 2013, shortly after the campaign began, and the building was completed in 2015.

"One thing that was really cool to me was that we had donors from every constituency base," said Barbie Terry. "We not only had science alumni donating, but also non-science alumni who gave because they appreciated those science professors from their past, as well as current and retired faculty, corporations, and friends of the university. To me this showed a commitment not only to the sciences, but to UNA and the programs we are offering. It's important to acknowledge the necessity of the sciences in relation to the economic growth of our community."

One of the newest STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) offerings at UNA is the

Engineering Technology program. Rather than bringing a traditional engineering theory program to the Shoals, University officials spoke with local companies and found they all agreed on an Engineering Technology program, which is what the industry needs in employees at this time. This is a hands-on way of learning, rather than the traditional applied learning. UNA is betting on extremely high job placements from this program, as it has been very successful in doing so thus far.

UNA also established a School of the Arts, and changed the university Honors program to an Honors College.

Another major point of interest throughout the campaign has been the move to become classified as a Division I university. Most University officials agree that the transition isn't just sports related, but also focuses heavily on increased academics.

"There is an absolute direct relationship between the two," said UNA President Ken Kitts. "And I've been crystal clear ever since this conversation began that a move to DI is an institutional transition, that is not specifically about athletics. This is not even *mostly* about

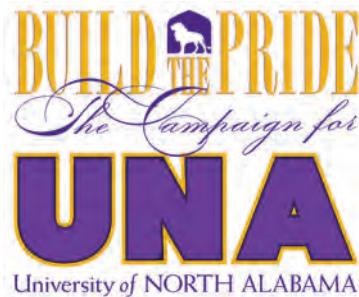
athletics. This is a larger platform on which UNA can compete and participate.

"There is no better way to enhance our profile and tell the world we're here than by making the move to a division one university. This is clearly the next level of excellence across the board. Our move to DI is a commitment to excellence university-wide. We are excited about the opportunities that will arise as we elevate from an already fantastic university to unprecedented levels of achievement," Kitts said.

A prime example of how the move is not only academic, but university-wide is the business school's recent AACSB certification. AACSB or the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, is the gold standard of business schools in the world, with only about five percent of universities having this accreditation worldwide.

"This accreditation puts us in a very elite group. This puts us alongside the best business programs in the world," said Kitts.

And while gifts and academics all make up the campaign, a university needs sustained funds and that's where



## 10/1/2013 to 4/30/2018

Endowments .....	\$ 11,261,344 .....	31%
Capital Projects .....	13,572,717 .....	37%
Programs and/or other Restricted Funds .....	7,799,310 .....	21%
Unrestricted and 1830 Fund .....	4,075,064 .....	11%
<b>TOTAL GIVING .....</b>	<b>\$ 36,708,435</b>	

endowments come in. Endowments are generally an area of giving emphasized by donors, and in the Build the Pride comprehensive campaign, they made up 31 percent of total funds. This category includes scholarships and professorships, endowed speaker series scholarships and endowed research funds.

"An endowment is where money goes into a hypothetical pot and is invested," said Dr. Debbie Shaw. "So that main endowment amount never goes away. As a Foundation, we invest all endowments together and the interest from those investments is where we pull the money from. As an institution, we strive for endowments because the money is always going to be there," she said.

Although almost the entirety of funds raised go towards a specific goal, unrestricted and 1830 Fund donations go toward immediate needs on campus.

Eighty-one student scholarships, one new named academic college, two named academic buildings and two endowed professorships are just a few of the major initiatives donors to Build the Pride made possible. According to Shaw though, this is only the beginning.

"After the success of Build the Pride, planning another campaign is inevitable," said Shaw. "As for future campaigns, you could almost consider the University already in one, if only in the planning phases."

And just like that it starts all over again.

What does the University of North Alabama need to offer that it doesn't now? What does the community need? Where will UNA be in five, ten, and fifteen years?

As the University moves along to implement the many initiatives this campaign has made possible, what will recruitment, job placement, and economics in the Shoals look like? University officials must weigh these questions right now in the hopes of providing for future Lions.

# MYRICK IS FIRST TO GRADUATE FROM DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM



Taylor Myrick '18

It just so happens that University of North Alabama alumnus Taylor Myrick is also a University of Alabama alumnus. And while that may sound pretty common, Myrick's path to the dual degree was a first for UNA.

Myrick is the first UNA student to complete the Dual Degree Engineering Program (DDEP), which is a 3+2 plan that offers students the opportunity to earn two bachelor's degrees in five years from UNA and the University of Alabama. The program is designed to allow students to attend three years at UNA and two years at UA.

Myrick chose to major in physics at UNA; he then went on to earn a degree in electrical engineering from UA, but that wasn't always the plan.

"My goal all along was to get a degree in electrical engineering," Myrick said. "Obviously that's not something that UNA offers on its own, so I was going to take basic classes at UNA and then transfer out to a college with an engineering department," he said.

What Myrick didn't account for was a love for physics he didn't know he had.

"Early on in an engineering degree you have to take physics," he said.

"I discovered in taking those early physics classes that I was doing very well and really understood the material, so when the DDEP came up it just felt like a natural progression to go ahead and get a degree in physics and then

tack on the electrical engineering degree that I wanted to begin with."

While some would be concerned with the idea of distance learning, Myrick said he was accustomed to taking online classes at UNA, so the idea of doing the same at Alabama wasn't a big deal. Thankfully, he didn't have to do that, because his UNA physics curriculum integrated well with the electrical engineering curriculum.

"It was less difficult, but more daunting. It's just a lot of material that you have to get through and all of it is at least marginally difficult or time consuming. Still I found that it was more than worth it once I got done and it felt really good to look back at what I accomplished," he said.

Myrick ended up finishing a year earlier than expected for the DDEP because he entered the program a year ahead.

"I was sort of a guinea pig for the whole thing and at times it felt that way," Myrick said. "The transfer process wasn't as seamless as I'm sure it is now, and I had to work closely with UA's electrical engineering department and department head to get my degree requirements cleared out. Now that they're aware of what it's like though, I'm sure it's going to be much easier for future students."

Easier and possibly a quicker path to employment. Myrick was recently hired on as an electrical engineer at SAIC in Huntsville. SAIC is a contractor for the United States Department of Defense.

"The program 100 percent contributed to my success. I felt prepared for everything I was asked in my interviews and the entire process, thanks to my education at both UNA and UA."

And since he's an alumnus of both schools, what if they ever play each other in athletics?

"I'd root for UNA for sure," Myrick said. "Bama is great and all, but UNA is my hometown and I can't stress enough how much I enjoyed my time at UNA."

# LANGUAGE LION

By the time you receive this magazine and are thumbing through the articles of what's going on in and around campus, one of its students, junior James Traywick from Trussville, will be actively immersing himself in the language and culture of Japan.

He finds himself half way around the world quite on purpose.

"My goal is to be fluent in the language," Traywick said in the weeks before his August 14 departure. "My definition of being fluent is that I could converse with a native speaker on any topic. Knowing that it's such a different language, I believe I should be able to get the basics down by the end of my time there."

Traywick will spend two semesters in Japan thanks largely to the Freeman-ASIA award, which is needs-based funding designed to assist recipients with the cost of the study abroad program as well as related expenses. Traywick joins over 4,900 Freeman-ASIA alumni who have benefited from studying abroad in Asia and returned to share their experiences with their peers on their home campus and in their communities since 2001.

Traywick's \$7,000 award was the full amount available to a student, and he'll spend his time studying at the Nagoya University of Foreign Studies, or NUFS, in Nissin, Japan.

The partnership between UNA and NUFS is entirely new. In fact, Traywick becomes the first student not just from UNA to study abroad at the Nisshi-based university, but he also becomes the first student from Alabama to accomplish this as no other institution in Alabama has cultivated a partnership with NUFS.

For Matthew Price, the director of Premier National and International Awards at UNA, Traywick is a natural fit to receive the award as well as to take full advantage of his time in Japan.

"More than a grade point average what the scholarships look for is someone who wants to be a citizen of the world," Price said. As part of the application, the

applicant "must convince that he would be a great ambassador. At the end of the day, James wants to be part of the world. He sees himself in an international context."

Price said he's cultivated his relationship with Traywick since Price worked in the University's Success Center, staying connected with him, and, now, in his current role, he's in a position to help Traywick realize his goals of fluency in a variety of languages.

"There's a lot of serendipity in that," Price said. "The choices James has in Japan wouldn't be possible without the Office of International Affairs trying to find new partnerships. He's a pioneer, of sorts, and I and the Office of International Affairs had the right program in place to put it all together, and James had the persistence to pursue it."

Price worked with Traywick on his personal statement for his application, mentoring him throughout the process and finding multiple avenues for which to apply for scholarships and other awards.

"One of the things that makes UNA so unique is that I can spend this kind of one-on-one time with applicants like James, making sure they're applying for the right programs and telling their stories most competitively and compellingly," Price said.

Traywick's passion for languages, that persistence to achieve fluency, ignited for him a few years ago when he agreed to serve as a missionary in Brazil. Prior to landing in country, he took Portuguese language classes, but, it was six months into his year-long stint in Brazil before he felt as though he'd broken the language barrier.

"I want to do the same thing by living abroad in Japan," Traywick said. "Ever since my time in Brazil, I have had a love of language. Before I went there, I'd graduated from high school, but I still didn't know what I wanted to do. In Brazil, I realized I was able to learn Portuguese and speak in a foreign language. It was something I could do,

and I believe it will help me as I pursue a career because we're living in a world that's becoming more globalized. So many more of us need to be able to speak a foreign language as part of our careers."

After his time in Japan, Traywick will return stateside to complete his foreign languages degree at UNA. He said he hopes that it will also prepare him to take on a role as part of the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program (JET) returning to teach Japanese to others.

Ultimately, Traywick said his love for learning and speaking foreign languages could lead him into a career as a translator, particularly translating Japanese, and completing graduate-level training towards that end.

"I now know what a polyglot is as someone who can speak four, five, or more languages," he said. "It's admirable to be able to switch from one language to another like that, so I know I want to become a polyglot."

Already, Traywick can tick off the languages about which he feels confident speaking: English, of course, Portuguese, and Spanish, and he has also taken courses in Japanese and Korean during his tenure at UNA. Talking to him about languages – how they work and sound and are used – is not unlike participating in a mini grammar lesson, with Traywick in the role of instructor.

"In terms of Spanish and Portuguese, they sound similar, and, basically, the grammar is the same. The only difference is the accent and words sometimes have false cognates. In Korean and Japanese, the grammar is similar. A sentence in English is subject, verb, object. In Japanese, it's subject, object, verb, and it's basically the same in Korean. The differences, of course, are in the writing system and speaking."

With two Japanese courses under his belt already thanks to the rigorous foreign language curriculum at UNA, Traywick said he's not a total novice, but he has a lot to learn.

"I'm just really excited to go and spend many hours a week immersed in the language," he said.

# "TRAVEL THE WORLD."



Dr. Francis Koti

The phrase adorns many lifelong bucket lists, retirement goals, and seemingly far-off dreams. But at UNA, it's a reality students are able to encounter thanks to a number of professors who accompany them on study abroad trips. Most recently, a few of those professors were published in a traveler's encyclopedia that is now being incorporated into curricula locally and elsewhere.

Drs. Francis Koti, Michael Pretes, and Scott Infanger were all given the opportunity to write articles for "Etiquette and Taboos Around the World: A Geographic Encyclopedia of Social and Cultural Customs," a textbook that spends about 10 pages each discussing cultural norms in 93 countries and regions.

"This book is a handy reference guide for anyone traveling as well as for

anyone curious about customs and traditions in other places," Pretes, a geography professor, said. "Customs and etiquette can be completely different in other places, so before traveling it's a good idea to brush up on what to do and not to do, to avoid misconceptions and even embarrassing moments."

The professors were contacted by an alumnus' parent, Ken Taylor, who served as the book's editor. After that, each professor submitted pieces based on their expertise.

Scott Infanger, associate professor of Spanish, described customs in Brazil, Cuba, Peru, and Quechua, the primary descendants of the Inca. Infanger studied Spanish at the University of Idaho before pursuing two master's degrees in Spanish literature and Portuguese literature at

Vanderbilt University. He subsequently received a doctorate in Spanish and Portuguese at Vanderbilt.

Koti, a native Kenyan and chair of the geography department, wrote about the customs of East Africa, a region he has both researched and experienced first-hand.

"The one thing that I mention there at the end of the book is that it is a very general account of East Africa as the region has more than 100 different cultural ethnic identities," Koti said. "So to sum it up in six pages of a book is quite an over-generalization. So these are very general accounts for someone traveling."

These generalizations are useful in classrooms where vast regions are explored in detail — and not just classrooms at UNA.

Koti said all students preparing to study abroad in Tanzania are required to read his chapter before their trip, and that includes students participating in the geography study abroad program from Northern Illinois University.

"I required that that become part of the pre-departure training to learn about cultural practices there — things that if they knew before going would be helpful in their interactions with local people," he said. "The information I provided there does not give you an in-depth analysis of East African cultures, but you know to not offer the left hand as a handshake; gentlemen know to not hug females and especially when in places that are predominantly Muslim."

Like Koti, Pretes' experience largely contributed to his pieces on Australia and Scandinavia. Pretes lived in Australia for four years and Finland for five before teaching at UNA. And while the professors based much of their writing on personal encounters, they also researched to explore customs across the broad areas they discussed.

"I sent the chapter to a listserve I belong to for Kenyan scholars and professionals here in the United States and around the world, and I wanted to get some input regarding the rigor in some of the things mentioned there because they're from personal experiences," Koti said. "Some of them are from places that I was never raised. So I wanted to know, 'Is this an accurate account of where you guys come from?' And there was actually very good, positive response."

Each of the professors have published numerous scholarly essays, and adding this most recent publication to the university's scholarship profile is a boost for the entire community, Koti said.

"Both for me and for the university, it's a good way to get our message out there," Pretes said. "That things are different in different places around the world, and that universities can help identify and explain this."

The book is a Greenwood publication and available on Amazon, Cengage, Google Books, and most places textbooks are sold.

# Band Director USA



Chances are if you've attended a University of North Alabama football game, you've heard the most wonderful collegiate band to ever exist; at least we think so! A tradition of Lion halftime, UNA's 250-plus member marching band executes a four-count turn to face the home crowd; the horn line blasts the audience with a loud, jazzy fanfare. Director of Bands Dr. Lloyd Jones calls that opening the "*park and blow*."

As the 20-minute show continues, the audience is treated to skilled musicianship, precise drill patterns, exhilarating percussion features, and athletic performances by the band's Lionette, majorette, and color guard lines.

It's all glitz and showmanship at halftime, but each performance represents years of study and practice from every person on the field. And the reason many of those students are on the field is that they knew UNA was the best institution to prepare them for a career in music. Some music students major in fields like instrumental performance, while others plan to teach music to future generations by studying music education.



"UNA has been referred to as a 'band director factory,'" says **Dr. Lloyd Jones '92**, who has been the Director of Bands for 18 years. "All across north Alabama, you will find the vast majority of directors are from UNA. At one time, nearly 25% of the band directors in Alabama were UNA graduates. It's still about 20%, which is a large amount for a small-to-medium sized university. That statistic tells me that our numbers are healthy, students entering the field are well-prepared, and they are staying in the profession for long periods of time."





# Why Music Students Choose UNA

The band program is the largest student organization at UNA, and it's also one of the oldest. In fact, the band is older than the university's name, having begun in 1949 when the institution was still called Florence State Teachers College. The program's longstanding legacy of excellence has attracted thousands of students to UNA over the years, many of whom chose UNA specifically because of its high-quality Music Education program.

**Kory Jones '06** knew before entering college that she wanted to be a band director, and she chose to attend UNA to accomplish that goal. "I came from a long tradition of Rutherford High School (in Panama City, Florida) students who were 'gently' pushed towards the band program by our high school director, who had studied under [former UNA Director of Bands] Dr. Edd Jones at Livingston. I think he saw something in us that was a right fit for the culture, work ethic, and musical results of the band, and he didn't want us to squander it elsewhere."

Since graduating from UNA, Kory has taught in "four very diverse school systems," ranging from the "up-and-coming Riverton Middle School in

the Huntsville area to the heart of the poor black belt in Wilcox county." She currently teaches at Sweet Water Schools, where she serves as band director and teaches music to students from pre-K through grade 12.



Evan Curtis '15

While UNA attracts many students who are interested in music education, the band program also creates band directors out of students who had never planned to take that path. **Evan Curtis '15** was a Commercial Spanish major when he began at UNA as a freshman. "I loved band when I was in high school, but when I got to UNA it was completely different," said Evan. "Everyone was so passionate about the activity that you couldn't help but buy in and give it your all. I ended up changing my major to Music Education my sophomore year. Being a part of the band helped me discover my identity as a leader and musician, something I may not have found otherwise."

That leadership training has helped Evan in his career as a band director at Holly Pond High School in Cullman County. He says that UNA Music Education majors are given responsibility

"more in league with what is expected of a graduate assistant," and that the extra responsibility better prepared him for leading his own band program. "Being in the UNA Band was unique in the sense that students take so much more ownership over the product than at other schools. Students lead sections in music rehearsals, help organize events on campus, and logically make sure everything is running efficiently within the program. I honestly couldn't imagine a Music Education student leaving college and starting a job without having these experiences."

Kory Jones also affirms that being given leadership roles in the UNA Band has been vital to her success as a music educator. "I learned to be very specific in my approach to bringing everyone up to the same approximate level," a skill that has been very important when teaching students in underprivileged school systems. "I also learned to make just about anything work with whatever materials and people we had, and that has definitely been an asset at my last two schools."

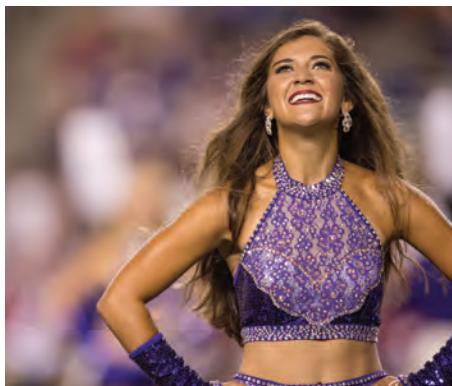
Alumni like Kory and Evan have spread the influence of UNA to bands and music programs throughout the state. And while UNA graduates dominate the music education field in Alabama, the band program's influence is not limited to the state, the region, or even the United States. "We have UNA alumni serving in instrumental music education all over the world—literally," said Dr. Lloyd Jones.



**'Kenneth Ragland '99** is a successful educator in the Dallas, Texas area. **Taylor Criswell '06** is the conductor of the Army Band of Europe—the only U.S. Army Band stationed on the European continent. We have graduates teaching in Tennessee, Mississippi, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, and beyond."

The excellence of the education, training, and performance groups are important reasons why UNA has earned its reputation as a "band director factory." But those factors on their own can't completely explain why so many students remain dedicated to the UNA Bands and to the field of music education. Deeper factors also come into play: friendship, encouragement, love, and support.

Thomasville City Schools band director and former UNA student **James Boyett '05** says, "There are a lot of favorite memories from my time in the UNA Band. Some of the best were spending long hours in the practice rooms, where we would all work hard and encourage each other, and of course, eating at Southern BBQ (a.k.a. the band cafeteria)."

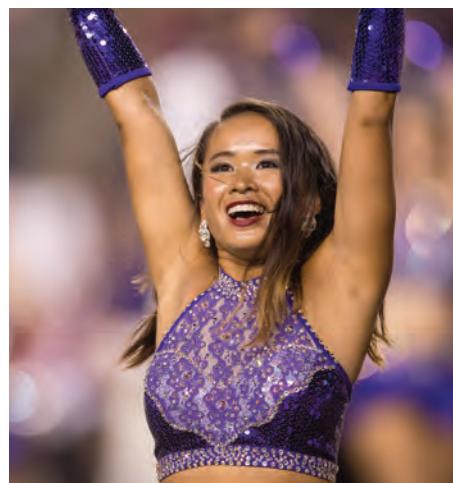


One of the close friends that James met in the UNA Music Education program was Kory Jones. Now, not only are James and Kory both working as band directors, but they are also married and have a young son, Daniel. Kory attributes the camaraderie of the band members to their commitment to excellence. She said that they put in "long hours working to achieve something worthy of praise. And because of that shared experience, deep friendships naturally followed."

This sense of encouragement and support goes beyond a student's immediate bandmates and degree cohort; it extends across generations. "There is a large network of UNA alumni who help mentor the younger graduates as they come out of school," says Dr. Jones. "The UNA alumni are indeed leaders in

the instrumental music education field. For example, the past president of the Alabama Bandmasters Association is a UNA alumnus, as is the current president, as well as the president-elect."

Having been part of the UNA Band has become a point of connection among band directors across the state. The UNA Music Education program isn't just a college degree. It's a network of professionals who are always happy to help the next generation of band directors from their alma mater.





## The Future of UNA BANDS

Looking to the coming years, Dr. Jones is optimistic about the direction of the band program. "I see the UNA Band growing in the future. I wouldn't be surprised if we hit 300 members within 5 years."

Some of the biggest recruitment tools for the UNA Bands, and the Music Department as a whole, are the dazzling performances by the marching band, as well as UNA's first-rate concert band and performing ensembles. The quality of UNA's performances continues to attract students from across the region and beyond. Currently, the band has students from 11 states, a number that will likely continue to increase. "These students major in all degree fields on campus. Sixty-five percent major in academic areas other than music," said Dr. Jones. Despite having different career ambitions, these students put in the hours and the work because they "enjoy being a part of a first-

rate band program."

In addition to the halftime shows at Braly Stadium, the band performs exhibitions at high school marching band competitions throughout the region. At most of these competitions, the band is a headliner of sorts; their halftime show is the performance that the high school band students, parents, and spectators look forward to seeing at the end of the evening.

These exhibitions are often some of the most exhilarating performances for the band members, as they are treated like rock stars for the day. High school students often make signs and cheer for their school's alumni who are now marching with UNA, all the while imagining what it will be like when they get the chance to don the purple uniform and hear the crowd cheer when it's time to "park and blow." Some of those students, much like Kory Jones,

are already planning to study at UNA to become band directors, and for others, like Evan Curtis, the excellence and camaraderie of the UNA band program will make converts of them. Still others will just enjoy continuing their love of music while they prepare for other careers at UNA.

"The best thing about the UNA Band is the people. I believe that," said Dr. Jones. "We have outstanding students in the band program. Quality attracts quality."



# Keeping up with the Joneses



## UNA BAND DIRECTORS

The UNA band program has existed for about 70 years, and for 40 of those years, the Director of Bands has been a Jones. The Jones legacy was begun by Dr. Edd Jones, who served as director for 21 years, and it was continued with his son, current director Dr. Lloyd Jones. "I've been around the UNA Band most of my life," said Lloyd. "My father was director from 1978 – 1999, so I watched as a kid."

Lloyd began as a student at UNA in 1985 and returned to the University in 1993 as a graduate student. He took on greater responsibility as a grad student, beginning to write the halftime shows for the band. He joined the faculty as a woodwind instructor in 1997 and became Director of Bands in 2000.

"I never expected to be the director of the UNA Band. I had actually planned to pursue a career away from Florence," said Lloyd. In fact, Lloyd had another job offer lined up when he chose to accept the interim director position at UNA. He had expected to stay in the position for one year, but the excellence and legacy of the program has kept him at the University ever since.

While Dr. Edd Jones has stayed on as Professor Emeritus, assisting with the band and teaching instrument lessons, Lloyd says, "Dr. Edd Jones did not want anyone thinking he wanted to still run the band. He had established the UNA Band as a first-rate musical organization. It was up to me to continue that tradition. I had watched him and how he worked, so it was fairly natural to continue the process. Some things have changed, but the foundation and the fundamentals are the same."

The Joneses have not just been figureheads of the band program; they are the very reason that music students from around the region are attracted to UNA. James Boyett was a community college student when he first visited UNA and met the Drs. Jones. "The reason that I chose UNA was because of Lloyd and Edd Jones. When I started looking at where to transfer to in order to finish my degree, I visited several universities. Most of the people I talked to either acted as though they didn't have time for me, or didn't care if I went to their school or not. When I visited UNA, Lloyd and Edd Jones sat down with me, and made me feel like not only did they care that I came to UNA, they cared about me. About halfway through our meeting, I already had my mind made up that this is where I needed to be."

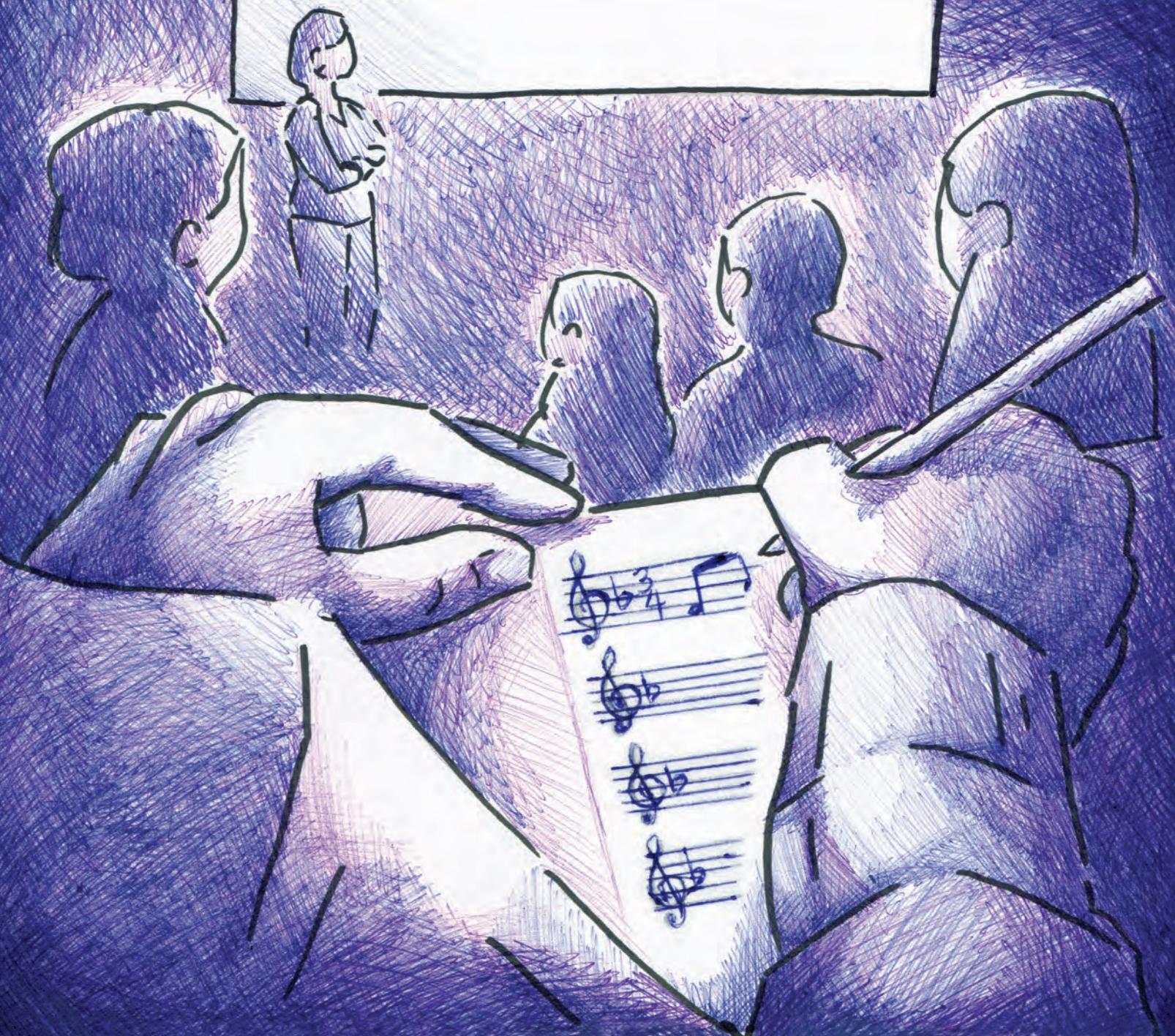
It is that kind of inviting environment that makes the UNA bands special. Whether it was a young Lloyd Jones being raised near the band by his father, or incoming student James Boyett being treated like he belonged there from his first visit, the Jones legacy at UNA is set to be one of family—a family of talented, hard-working, first-rate musicians.



**University of NORTH ALABAMA  
MARCHING BAND  
1849-2018**



# REACH AND TEACH





Cameron Flener and April Clark '02

From the moment children enter kindergarten, they're bombarded with the same question for years: What do you want to be when you grow up? April Clark and Cameron Flener are helping high school students reach that answer more easily.

The two founded Reach and Teach, a marketing program encouraging high school students to explore various career paths.

Clark got the idea for the program based on her own experiences. A two-time UNA graduate, Clark received her bachelor's in accounting, realized accounting careers weren't for her, then received her master's in secondary education.

"I knew accounting wasn't for me very soon after I graduated and I wish

so much that when I was in high school I was told more about the opportunities that are available instead of just your standard careers — teacher, lawyer, doctor," she said. "I thought, 'I would love to go back and teach students about business and the different opportunities that are out there,' so that by the time they graduate high school they might know more about a career path they would have never considered before."

Reach and Teach began as a method of raising funds for students attending the national Future Business Leaders of America competition in Anaheim, California, Clark said.

"I sat down with my students and we just brainstormed ideas of how we could raise money, and they came up with the concept of having a concert," she

said. "So I started looking into different options of how we could have a concert fundraiser and I reached out to several different bands."

Enter Cameron Flener, the vocalist of The Velcro Pygmies.

"He loved the concept of bringing a rock concert to campus and allowing students to really participate not just in the concert aspect but in the concert promotion aspect as well," Clark said.

Clark was teaching a sports and entertainment management class at Colbert County High School at the time of the concert's conception, and immediately encouraged her students' participation.

"A lot of times in a traditional classroom they learn from a textbook or they memorize definitions, and that's



something that I never wanted [for] my classroom," she said. "We rarely use textbooks. So I had always tried to incorporate real-world experiences."

Students participated in every facet of planning the event, from budget management and scheduling to promotional materials and event logistics.

"They first start off by setting goals for what they want to accomplish and then they have to identify their target market," Clark said. "They have to go out and solicit sponsorships. They also have to be involved in every aspect of the operation — that includes ticket selling, merchandise selling, stage setup, sound engineering. They get to work with the lighting crew and see the different aspects of the job."

Students also interact with the band, seeing how even entertainers operate as a business.

"Anything you can think of that would be involved with event promotion, there's an opportunity for students to do that — whether it's photography, sound engineering or stage setup."

Clark said she's seen a dramatic change in students' attitudes toward learning since beginning the program.

"Once they work so hard over the course of the Reach and Teach program and then they have that concert at the end that's a reward and payoff for their hard work, you can tell that their confidence has been boosted so much because they're able to see something that they accomplished, not just a

hypothetical situation," Clark said. "Like, 'I ran a popsicle stand in the classroom' — that has no real results. This is actually real results from their hard work."

While the ultimate goal of the Reach and Teach program is to expose students to various potential careers, Clark said she's noticed superior engagement from her students because of the hands-on learning.

"I had one student that was very reserved, very shy, didn't speak up very much, not interested in the marketing class whatsoever, he was just kind of there," she said. "So when we had the first concert, I noticed he had a very creative mindset. He would always doodle on his papers. So I thought, 'well I'm going to see if he'll be interested in doing some art for the concert.'"

The student was very excited because he was assigned a critical task for the entire project, she said.

"After the concert was over, he put together this really incredible video and he might not have known it was incredible, but everybody else saw his talent," she said. "It gave him that boost of confidence he needed to really come out of his shell. I had him again in my class the next year and he was a completely different person. He volunteered on the very first day of school to give his presentation about himself, which is something I require my students to do, but he volunteered to go first."

"Just that one little boost of confidence that he got through

participation in Reach and Teach really changed the trajectory of his life. He has a completely different outlook on his life."

And that confidence is critical for students to pursue various careers that they might have otherwise considered.

"It's important for them to discover who they are before they can decide what they want to be," Flener said. "Once they've made that discovery, they have to have the confidence to pursue it. Being unconventional is difficult for a young person even if on the outside they 'appear' to be unconventional. Through Reach and Teach we strive to allow students to recognize the actual value of not being 'normal.'"

Seeing the results of the program, Flener told Clark he had big dreams.

"After [the first concert], Cameron came up to me and said, 'I really want to be able to take this concept to other schools across the country, because I feel like it's so important that we impact other students. We can't just keep this to ourselves.'

"He asked if I'd be willing to write the curriculum and work with him. He's really good on the band promotion side and the band business side. It's been a very good partnership between the two of us because I have the educational background to really know what needs we can meet through this program at the different schools."

After reaching and teaching in other schools, Clark and Flener saw the results they had hoped for and knew

the program was on track for something bigger than they originally envisioned.

"The impact in my classroom — and then every single program that has been implemented at other schools so far — we've seen that exact same result in other students, too," Clark said. "That's what drives our passion. Just being able to impact those students and know that something little they got that has nothing to do with marketing can potentially change their outlook on life."

Flener said the program is school-based, yes, but the values taught are much greater.

"Reach and Teach is the most unique hands-on learning experience I've ever seen," Flener said. "It not only teaches students academics, but, perhaps even more importantly, the life skills they will need regardless of what career path they choose to pursue."

Reach and Teach has expanded throughout the state, and now this dynamic duo is taking their project to the next level.

"We actually just had a meeting with a school board in Georgia and our plans are to really expand it nationally," Clark said.

Clark hasn't forgotten her roots and her greater purpose in the Reach and Teach program, which is not only to expose students to various tangible careers, but also to change teaching methods across the country.

"A lot of times teachers have been teaching for so long that they kind of get into a routine of that traditional classroom

setting that you think of," she said. "But I know how it has personally changed my teaching style to bring in these other concepts of real-world experiences and really allowing students to lead their learning. They're able to brainstorm and come up with these ideas and I'm just there to help facilitate. They can really take ownership of their learning. So I really hope this program can really change that mindset of teachers who need a change in their classroom and they can make a decision to reach those kids that aren't typically engaged."

The teaching style is revolutionary, with a plethora of interest in the program as well as student response being the clear evidence.

"Reach and Teach actually changes lives, and there are few programs in the high school universe that accomplish this," Flener said. "We've created a program that is fun and as a result is self-motivating."

Currently The Velcro Pygmies are the only band students work with, however, Clark said they are working on getting more artists involved in the process.

"We have recently developed a five-year plan for Reach and Teach which involves involving other musical entities, but not even just musical entities," she said. "We want to eventually involve other promotable aspects, whether it be The Harlem Globetrotters or something like that. It's still the same concept, the students are still being able to promote that event."

Clark hasn't forgotten the community that inspired her to give back, either.

"After I graduated and I had the opportunity to write a curriculum for the Reach and Teach program we're working with, my automatic thing [to do] was to reach out to Dr. [Lamont] Maddox who taught my curriculum development class," she said. "He was so willing to help and sit with me, mentor me, and kind of go over what I had already written and give me some suggestions and ideas. Even after I graduated I felt very comfortable reaching back out to those professors and advisers. They've always been more than willing to help in that regard."

What Clark valued most about her time at the University was the professors' willingness to not only teach, but teach in real-world, community-driven settings — something Clark teaches in her own program.

"I loved my time at UNA and I told my graduating seniors all the time that we're so blessed in this community to have an awesome university like UNA right here in our backyard," she said. "I'm proud to be an alum and I think it's really made an impact on who I am, how I teach and how I represent that in my classroom."

Those interested in learning more about the program can visit [www.reachandteach.rocks](http://www.reachandteach.rocks), and bands, vendors and those in the community interested in involvement can reach Clark through the website.

"I think so many times, 'If I would've had opportunities like this,' or even just knowing about career paths, there's no telling what I would have grown up to be," Clark said, before adding with a laugh, "I might be on tour with Beyoncé or something doing her stage setup."

The entire program can be summarized with one simple word: Opportunity.

"It's all about being able to provide those opportunities for other people," Clark said. "Because I feel like those opportunities have proven themselves to me and I want to be able to do that for these younger students and have that impact on them."

"It's been such an incredible experience. It's something I never dreamed that I would be involved with. But I feel like it's my purpose."



# PROFILES IN EXCELLENCE

## ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ADVISING

### Dr. Robert Young

Dr. Young is an exceptional academic advisor, professor, mentor, co-worker, and friend. He has worked with many students and co-workers in his 30 years at the University of North Alabama. During that time, he has been a well-liked and a well-respected example for students and local educators. He goes beyond the call of duty to make sure that his students succeed. He has the analytical skills to solve problems that require sensitivity and compassion.

Dr. Young daily shares his philosophy of advising and of education. He does not do this by talk, but by the example he sets. He clearly shows the passion he feels for education, and for his students. He does not "jump on the band wagon" for every new idea, but presents a balanced view of what is truly best for education. He is willing to listen, and to present multiple viewpoints. His knowledge of early literacy and child development are invaluable to students and teachers alike.

Dr. Young is very aware of what students need to be able to graduate and be successful. His co-workers say he is their "human GPA calculator." He always seems to know exactly how many As or Bs a student needs to be able to reach the required grade point average. He can analyze a transcript to see what is needed for a student to be able to get into the program.

Not only is Dr. Young a great advisor when students are at the University, but he continues to be a part of the students' lives after their tenure at the university is over. He repeatedly visits with former students at various schools. He asks about their lives, remembering details that many teachers would have forgotten long since. He discusses educational philosophy, and gives advice about the career path these teachers need to take, to continue to advance their careers. He always seems



to be genuinely interested in the lives of former students.

Dr. Young is also a mentor to many of the faculty members he works with. He always tries to do what is best for students and for the faculty who serve them. He shares his talent with others who are trying to advise students. For new faculty, collaborating with Dr. Young and learning from him is embedded professional development. Some of his co-workers are also his former students.

Each semester, Dr. Young meets with his students one-on-one. He has a wonderful rapport with his students. He begins when they first enter the University, and continues all the way through, even serving as a marshal for the graduation ceremonies. If you ask a former student about Dr. Young, you will always get a smile, and probably many stories about how Dr. Young helped them achieve success.

One way that Dr. Young shows that he puts his students first, is that he advises them about what is best for them, and not just necessarily for the education program. In one example, he had a student advisee who was in the education program. She was not having great success, and was not motivated to do so. Dr. Young listened carefully to where her

interests lay, and suggested that social work might be a better fit. He introduced the student to people in the social work department, and she changed her major. Suddenly, the student had found her passion. Her schoolwork improved, and she had goals for which she could strive. This student graduated, and has recently been hired in a case-worker position as a social worker. Dr. Young did not just forget about this student. He remained in contact with her and encouraged her, even though she was no longer in his department. He even ended up performing her wedding ceremony.

Students, faculty, alumni, and local educators alike can attest to the tremendous impact of Dr. Bob Young's advising at the University of North Alabama. He is the kind of academic advisor every college student deserves and the kind of mentor/advisor every graduate and colleague needs.



## PHI KAPPA PHI ELEANOR P. GAUNDER **EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD**

### **Dr. Larry Bates**

Dr. Larry Bates was working in the Shoals area and decided to take a psychology course at the University to learn more about it. There he heard Dr. George Robinson talk about Ivan Pavlov and one could say that Pavlov rang his bell, if you'll excuse the pun. Bates said, "Pavlov's work explained human behavior from a basis in science, and I couldn't stop thinking about it. I was simply hooked."

A couple of years later, Bates decided that he wanted to become a psychologist and decided to complete his undergraduate studies at UNA. He recalled "I was almost 30 years old and a nontraditional student going back to school to change careers. I ended up taking a job as a nursing assistant at ECM hospital (cardiac unit) on midnight shift so that I could go to school during the day." He assisted Dr. Richard Hudiburg and Dr. Charles E. Joubert with psychology research. One of those studies resulted in Bates's first publication, which he credits

as his ticket to graduate school.

With UNA degree in hand, he began graduate studies at Auburn University in clinical psychology, where he studied anxiety and fear responses using psychophysiological monitoring (polygraph) equipment under the tutelage of Dr. F. Dudley McGlynn. While at Auburn, he also co-authored a book chapter on the treatment of panic disorder.

His last year of graduate training was a residency at the University of Mississippi and Veterans Affairs Medical Centers in Jackson, Mississippi, where he had clinical rotations in trauma recovery, eating disorders, and substance abuse. While serving in the VA's Trauma Recovery Center, a high school shooting occurred at Pearl High School. The school officials contacted Dr. Judith Lyons, his supervisor and mentor at the time, to help them coordinate the counseling duties when the school reopened. Dr. Bates got to assist her in that endeavor, and because of that, Bates noted, "I still can't watch newscasts of school shootings because of that experience."

After his residency training in Jackson, Dr. Bates accepted a post-doctoral fellowship in the Division of

Preventive Medicine at UAB, working on the Enhanced Recovery in Coronary Heart Disease (ENRICHED) team. As part of that fellowship he received training and supervision in cognitive therapy from the Beck Institute in Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania.

Finally, in 1999 he accepted an assistant professor position at his alma mater, UNA. He said, "It was a very long journey to get back to UNA. Ironically, my office is the very same office from which I had received advisement from Dr. Robinson back around 1990-1992. I think of that from time to time when I'm advising students."

Since arriving back at UNA, Dr. Bates has been appointed by Gov. Bob Riley to serve two terms on the State Board of Examiners in Psychology, which oversees all psychology licensees in the state. In 2015 he was awarded the Southeastern Psychology Association's Mentor of the Year Award and the UNA Alumni Faculty/Staff Service Award. Having completed 19 years as a psychology professor, Dr. Bates sees his main task as trying to instill that same love for learning about psychology and love for research in his students. "I get to know students best when we do a research project together. Often, it's a year-long project of weekly meetings, late night emails and texts, and a thousand deadlines. In the end, I proudly see them present that research before professionals. Part of teaching is mentoring, perhaps the best part."

Dr. Bates's primary research interests are in the areas of psychology of religion and hiking behaviors. Born in Red Bay, he and his wife Missy now reside in Muscle Shoals.

# PROFILES IN EXCELLENCE

## DR. LARRY J. NELSON OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARD

### Dr. Laura Williams

Dr. Williams began her teaching career at the University of North Alabama in 2007. She brought with her thirteen years of registered nursing experience in hospital and home health nursing, with eight of those years as a family nurse practitioner in the community settings of family practice and long-term care. Community settings are those areas outside of the hospital that are less acute and focus more on the management of chronic health conditions, which are crucial to the physical, emotional, and psychosocial health of patients. There is a personal relationship that the nurse develops in the community setting that encompasses much more than physical health. It is that personal relationship and holistic view of the patient that Dr. Williams tries to instill in her students. In her opinion, effective communication and active listening are the most valuable skills a nurse can possess.

Nursing education is unique and challenging in that it includes coursework and a clinical component. Nursing faculty are required to be knowledgeable in both areas. Although the basic structure and functions of the human body may not change, the ways that nurses care for them constantly do. In the last 25 years, nursing has seen enormous advances in technology that have brought paperless charting, advanced surgical techniques, advanced monitoring systems, advanced medication administration, and innovative assistive devices for acute, rehabilitation, and chronic care. Nurses must learn to do all of this proficiently. "It is our role as educators to provide our students with the critical thinking skills and tools that will enable them to adapt to a constantly changing profession, while simultaneously providing safe, competent patient care," said Dr. Williams.

Dr. Williams is very proud to be a member of Anderson College of Nursing. "The faculty are committed to student



success, and value the opportunity to educate the nurses that will care for you and your family. After that, it is our mission to educate those who wish to further their nursing education, either by obtaining a BSN after their Associate's Degree program, or to obtain a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)."

Dr. Williams taught both community health and adult health nursing II in the undergraduate program for eight rewarding years. "There is great satisfaction in engaging students in courses and clinicals, side by side, and working together to assess and treat patients," she said.

In 2017, the opportunity arose to transition to an online teaching role in community health for RN-BSN students, and graduate courses in the MSN program. The online environment is rich with opportunities for learning, engagement, and creative teaching with students. She quickly learned that

these students are nurses, and that their knowledge would far surpass her own: "It is so rewarding to have nurses from all areas of practice, to just listen and learn as they solve problems and generate scholarly inquiries that only a seasoned nurse could." Furthermore, the online environment allows the instructor to interact with nurses across the country. "The same clinical problem that I would introduce to students in a face-to-face classroom now becomes a problem that can be addressed within the physical, social, and cultural frameworks of different regions of the United States."

Dr. Williams is married to Brad, a civil engineer, and they have three children. Twins Josh and Jake are juniors at UNA, and Jackson will enter kindergarten at Kilby School in the fall.

Dr. Williams is very thankful for the opportunity to work at the University. "For me, the greatest reward in teaching is to develop a relationship with that nurse at a certain point. He or she may be an undergraduate student, an RN working to receive her BSN, or a student pursuing a MSN. Then you get to watch them grow, both in their career and in life. Our students are caring for patients locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. They represent us so very well."



## DR. JIM F. COUCH OUTSTANDING SCHOLARSHIP/ RESEARCH AWARD

### Dr. Melissa Driskell

Dr. Melissa M. Moore-Driskell is an associate professor in the Department of Physics and Earth Science and associate dean of the Honors College. She received her bachelor's in geology at the University of North Alabama and her master's in geophysics from Arizona State University. She earned her Ph.D. in geophysics from the Center for Earthquake Research and Information (CERI) at the University of Memphis. She joined the UNA faculty in 2006.

Dr. Driskell is a seismologist. She began her geophysics research studying the structure and seismic wave properties of the Earth's Core-Mantle Boundary. Now her research focuses on using seismic waves to determine the structure of tectonic plate boundaries, specifically subduction zones. Subduction zones are

the most seismically active places on Earth and are where great earthquakes ( $M > 8.5$ ) occur. Her research aims to better understand what causes variability in seismic behavior and earthquake generation at subduction zones as well as the role fluids, pore pressure, stress, and material properties play in the variations. This information is critical in evaluating seismic hazard and mitigation.

In 2014 Dr. Driskell was awarded a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant of \$62,000 to research the Alaskan Subduction Zone. The project, Basin-to-Slab Imaging of the Alaska Subduction Zone, is a collaboration with Dr. Douglas Christensen and Dr. Carl Tape at the University of Alaska Fairbanks Geophysical Institute. The project seeks to characterize the three-dimensional structure of the Cook Inlet basin-crust-slab-mantle system of the Alaskan subduction zone.

In 2015, she conducted fieldwork in southern Alaska, along with UNA student Nealey Sims, who is now a Ph.D. student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. The team deployed 30 broadband seismometers for a seismic experiment called SALMON (Southern Alaska Lithosphere and Mantle Observatory Network). The science objective of SALMON is to use local and teleseismic earthquakes to image the seismic structure of the crust and upper mantle to better understand the active tectonic setting and the tectonic history of the Cook Inlet region. The seismometers were retrieved in 2017, and the data is being currently processed. The experiment recorded over 200,000 in the two years it was deployed. The deployment, science goals, and data on the Iniskin M7.1 earthquake recorded by SALMON is described in a paper published in the journal Seismological Research Letters (Tape et al., 2016).

In addition to Alaska, Dr. Driskell also researches the Middle American subduction zone offshore Nicaragua and Costa Rica. In September 2013, research entitled Integration of Arrival Time Datasets for Consistent Tomography Quality Control: A Case Study of Amphibious Experiments Along the Middle America Trench was published in

the Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America (Moore-Driskell et al., 2013). The data in this publication was used to perform seismic velocity tomography of the Nicaragua and Costa Rican margin in order to understand the structure and controls of the seismogenic portion of the subduction zone. Since most subduction seismogenic zones lie offshore, our knowledge of the extent of the seismogenic zone and where seismogenic zone earthquakes are generated is crucial to understanding the seismic and tsunami hazard for low-lying coastal communities. Using data collected by seismic stations on land and under water (ocean-bottom seismometers, OBS) collected through the NSF funded MARGINS program, she imaged the subducting and overriding plate of this region. This research, 3D Double Difference Velocity Tomography of Costa Rica and Nicaragua, is being revised for publication in *Geosphere* (Special Edition: Subduction Top to Bottom). She has also worked with researchers at Georgia Tech, Southern Methodist University, University of Oregon, University of Alabama, and UNAVCO on other and ongoing subduction research.

Dr. Driskell was recently selected as an NSF EarthScope National Lecturer for the 2018-2019 academic year. According to the EarthScope website, "The EarthScope Speaker Series is part of the EarthScope Education and Outreach program and seeks to present the scientific results of EarthScope researchers to faculty and students in departmental seminars at colleges and universities. Speakers are selected based on their outstanding research accomplishments involving EarthScope as well as their abilities to engage a variety of audiences."

Driskell was the recipient of the 2017 College of Arts & Sciences Early Career Outstanding Research Award. In addition to her NSF grant, she has been awarded seven internal research grants. She has published multiple research articles in the top-10 geophysics journals and has presented at dozens of national and international conferences.

# PROFILES IN EXCELLENCE



## ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE

### Dr. Clarissa Hall

When Dr. Clarissa Hall graduated from the University in 1991 with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree, she had no idea that in the years to come the nursing profession and UNA would open the door around the world to service. After becoming a Registered Nurse, Clarissa filled her days with caring for home health patients and becoming aware of the impact a smile, a kind word,

or an act of kindness can bring. In 2009, she became a family nurse practitioner and worked in the pediatric field.

Dr. Hall began teaching at the Anderson College of Nursing in spring 2013. She has had the opportunity to teach the pharmacology in nursing course, community nursing course, and foundations of nursing course. She has also served as a faculty mentor, has been on many Anderson College of Nursing committees, and has participated in many recruitment activities. Dr. Hall said, "Talking with potential students and parents about UNA and becoming nurses is exciting." Her position has also yielded many opportunities for university service, with membership on the Faculty Senate, Faculty Senate Executive Committee,

International Program Offerings Committee, and Graphics Standards and Web Communication Committee. Dr. Hall serves as leadership succession officer of the Upsilon Omicron chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International and has been active in local events such as Give-a-Kids-a-Chance.

On an international level, Dr. Hall has a passion for helping underserved areas and has been a part of several medical teams in Guatemala and Haiti. In August 2016, Dr. Hall participated in a trip to Desab, Haiti, through UNA Alternative Breaks. After this trip, she continued to work with the "Haiti Endeavor" to share the story of the Desab community with university faculty, staff, and community representatives. Dr. Hall has been active in introducing students to service learning through the Anderson College of Nursing Study Abroad trips. During these trips, the student and medical team provide medical care for up to 700 patients in underserved areas and health education to the local schools. She said that her hope for the students is "that they will gain an understanding that there are people in need all over the world, and we all have skills that can be used to serve others."

When asked about service, Dr. Hall said, "These unique opportunities have helped me develop a better understanding of world culture, a realization that learning is two-way, and that a smile is universal. I have been blessed that God gave me the desire for service, parents and grandparents that nurtured it, a husband and children that supported it, and that nursing and UNA gave me the platform to serve."

# Lions under the Lights

SEPTEMBER 28, 2018

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Tony Pujol

# NEW FACES

IN NORTH ALABAMA ATHLETICS

## TONY PUJOL

Just over 100 days into his tenure as head men's basketball coach at North Alabama, Tony Pujol has not had time to decorate his new office. There are not many plaques on the wall, or signed basketballs or framed autographed photos. It's not that the new coach doesn't have nice things to show off. It's just that he's been busy hiring assistants, setting up marquis games and recruiting new players as the Lions move into their first season as NCAA Division I members of the ASUN conference.

Pujol is just one of many new faces among the UNA Athletics coaching staffs. New head volleyball coach Bob White has also assembled his staff, while

Jeremy Provence is also set to begin a new era leading the Lion cross country programs.

For Pujol, getting settled in has proven to be a step-by-step process. "We are starting to get settled in our house," he said. "A lot of things are still in boxes right now. I have to stay focused body and mind. I will get up and get in a workout before hitting the office with a very compartmentalized daily schedule. I have to be able to tackle tasks one at a time in order to get things done off of my list."

The addition of two assistant coaches, along with seven new roster players has kept Pujol busy since being

hired in early April as the seventh UNA head coach in the program's 87-year history. Tom Berryman and Ahmad Smith were brought on board to join assistant Willie Watson and graduate assistant Daniel Williams.

Bigger coaching staffs is a common thing among Division I programs. UNA women's head coach Missy Tiber also promoted former graduate assistant Ellen Holton to full-time assistant and will add another GA for the upcoming season.

"The entire department, and especially our staff has done a tremendous job," said Pujol. The 14-year veteran comes to UNA after coaching stops at Appalachian State, Virginia

Commonwealth, and Alabama. He has served as an assistant coach at Wyoming since 2016.

"My family is ecstatic about the weather here," said Pujol. "They are really enjoying it. Not that Wyoming wasn't great in the summer but my family is from south Florida so they are more at home with the humidity."

As for getting marquis games, Pujol and the Lions have already made a splash. UNA is set to play road games at Toledo, Troy, Jacksonville State, Pitt, and Gonzaga. The Zags have advanced to the Sweet 16 for four straight seasons while the showdown with JSU will rekindle one of the Lions' oldest and most heated rivalries.

"Before I came here, I familiarized myself with UNA," said Pujol. "I wanted to know its athletic history and its educational background. I wasn't just putting my name in every hat every time there was a head coaching job opening. I think UNA needed the right fit and I also needed the right fit for myself."

As the summer recruiting season winds down, Pujol is tasked with splitting time with his family and his new team, which will feature eight true freshmen. Before fall classes begin, the players will get one more break for summer. Before they leave town, however, Pujol wants just a little more time with his new team.

"I want to finish up recruiting and be able to spend some more time with them and continue to build relationships," Pujol said. "I want the players create something of their own and establish a culture. We will have new guys carrying the team so it's up to them to take ownership."

Taking ownership has been an early theme for Pujol and the UNA program. The coaches, staff and players have been reading the book *Extreme Ownership* by Jocko Willink and Leif Babin. Outlined from a military perspective, the two former Navy SEALS provide lots of fascinating and inspiring anecdotes that can be transferred into business workings.

"It's a really good read and it gives examples of what a leader needs to do in order to be successful," said Pujol. "That is

true in the military, in the business world, in basketball and in life in general."

With traveling and coaching taking up so much time, the Pujol family is forced to take advantage of the time they have together.

"We don't get a lot of family time so when we are together we all just like to lay around the house," said Pujol. "It's good to have some private time with the family where you can catch up. We all enjoy the outdoors so we are always on the lookout for places to go hiking."

UNA fans might also catch the Pujol family at Big Bad Breakfast in

the mornings, or at the Pie Factory in downtown Florence at night. "There are plenty of good places to eat and a lot of good people to see here in town."

Once the season arrives, however, Pujol said he wants to build a specific brand of basketball. "On the court we want to be tenacious and relentless," he said. "We are looking for players who are ready to take ownership of the program. It needs to be bigger than me. The history of UNA is so important. I am proud of our body of work but there is still a long way to go."

## BOB WHITE

After winning more than 82 percent of his games as a collegiate head coach, Bob White has been selected to lead the volleyball program at the University of North Alabama. Following the departure of former coach Stephanie Radecki, who took over head coaching duties at Southern Miss, White became the program's ninth head coach.

White, who will also lead the Lions beach program which debuts this spring, comes to UNA from Palm Beach Atlantic, where the Sailfish program was a perennial Division II powerhouse. He brings his former PBA assistant coach David Gordon to Florence and also added Haley Doerfler to the coaching staff.

"David was a big part of that success at PBA," said White. "He is a perfect fit for our transition into Division I. Haley's knowledge of the indoor and outdoor game, her success as a coach, and most importantly her communication skills and personality also make her a perfect fit for UNA."

White, who has a career coaching record of 462-92, led Palm Beach Atlantic to six straight NCAA Division II regional



Bob White

tournaments, including two trips to the Final Four.

In 2015, he led PBA to a 31-5 record and the highest ranking in program history at No. 2, while finishing as the South Region champions and NCAA runner-up. For his efforts, White was named the AVCA Division II Coach of the Year. He followed that by repeating as regional champions and again advancing to the Final Four.

During his tenure at PBA, White also led the Sailfish to seven NCCAA regional titles and a national championship in 2014. He amassed a 398-84 record while winning two South Region championships, and achieving eight seasons of 30 or more victories.

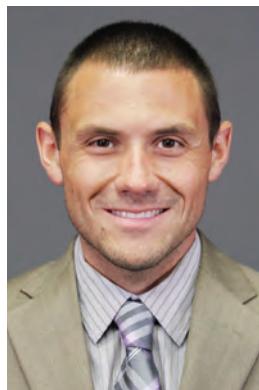
"It is a special and unique opportunity transitioning a strong and successful NCAA Division II volleyball program to NCAA Division I," said White. "I feel like I've been coaching my whole life for this chance and it is such a huge honor for me and my family to become a part of the UNA family. I am excited and ready to roar with this program."

# JEREMY PROVENCE

Jeremy Provence became the North Alabama head men's and women's cross country coach in early May. The former collegiate standout runner also took over the role of assistant game operations manager.

A native of Winfrey Valley, Arkansas, Provence received a bachelor's degree in Physical Education from the University of the Ozarks in 2012 and added a master's degree in Health, Leisure, and Exercise Science with an emphasis in Exercise Science from West Florida in 2014. He served as the head cross country coach at the Ozarks for the past four years.

A collegiate runner from 2008-11 at University of the Ozarks, Provence owns the second-fastest 8K time (25:54) in school history. He participated in four NCAA III Regional races during his career and was named to the USTFCCCA All-Region Team in 2011 as well as earning



Jeremy Provence

All-American Southwest Conference honors that season.

A three-time member of the American Southwest Conference All-Academic Team, Provence is the only runner in men's program history at University of the Ozarks to earn Capital One Academic All-District honors and is one of only two runners at the school to be a member of the US Track & Field & Cross Country Coaches Association All-Academic Team.

Provence began his coaching career as a volunteer assistant for the men's and women's cross country program at the University of West Florida in 2012. He then served as a graduate assistant at UWF in 2013.

He returned to his alma mater in 2014 as head coach of the women's and men's cross country program and the men's and women's indoor and outdoor track program.

Provence led the women's and men's track program to the school's first American Southwest Conference Championship appearance and seven of his runners competed in the NCAA regional cross country championships. He had 20 runners on the American Southwest Conference Cross Country All-Academic Team and his women's cross country program was awarded the United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Women's Team Academic Award (2016).

He coached the American Southwest Conference Cross Country Sportsmanship Male Athlete of the Year as well as the winner of the ASC Women's Track Sportsmanship Athlete of the Year (2017).

Provence continues to run competitively and has numerous wins and top 10 finishes in nine mile, 25k, half marathon, and marathon events.

## FOOTBALL

The University of North Alabama football team has added assistant coaches on both sides of the ball. After one season as receivers coach at Chattanooga, Ryan Aplin returns to the UNA coaching staff as offensive coordinator. The Lions have also added Austin Tucker as receivers coach and Cordell Upshaw as defensive line coach.



Ryan Aplin

During his previous stint at UNA in 2016, Aplin coached the UNA receivers as the Lions posted an 11-2 record, won Gulf South Conference and Super Region 2 championships, and advanced to the NCAA Division II National Championship Game.

Prior to coming to UNA, Aplin had

served as a graduate assistant coach at Auburn University under Gus Malzahn in 2015 and had spent two years as an administrative intern at Ole Miss under Hugh Freeze.

He is a former two-time Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year at quarterback for Arkansas State, becoming the first person in the history of the league to receive the Male Student-Athlete of the Year award twice.

Tucker served an offensive graduate assistant at Memphis in 2017 and at Auburn in 2016. He played receiver and quarterback at Shiloh Christian High School in Springdale, Arkansas, where he won a Class 3A state championship in

2006. He then played receiver Arkansas from 2007 to 2011 where he was the kick holder for the last two seasons.



Cordell Upshaw

Upshaw comes to UNA after holding the same position at Southern Arkansas. He helped the Muleriders begin their recent stretch of winning football. Over his time on staff, SAU won 19 games, posted

a .613 overall winning percentage, and appeared in the CHAMPS Heart of Texas Bowl in 2012.

# 2018 FALL ATHLETIC SCHEDULES

\* ASUN contests • All times Central

## FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE/DAY	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>			
1 Sat.	at Southern Utah	Cedar City, Utah	7:00 p.m.
8 Sat.	at Alabama A&M	Huntsville, Ala.	6:00 p.m.
15 Sat.	at North Dakota State	Fargo, N.D.	2:30 p.m.
22 Sat.	AZUSA PACIFIC	HOME	6:00 p.m.
29 Sat.	at Campbell	Buies Creek, N.C.	5:00 p.m.
<b>OCTOBER</b>			
6 Sat.	WEST FLORIDA	HOME	6:00 p.m.
13 Sat.	MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE (HOMECOMING)	HOME	6:00 p.m.
20 Sat.	at Jackson State	Jackson, Miss.	2:00 p.m.
27 Sat.	OPEN		
<b>NOVEMBER</b>			
3 Sat.	SHORTER	HOME	6:00 p.m.
10 Sat.	NORTH GREENVILLE	HOME	1:30 p.m.
15 Thu.	at Incarnate Word	San Antonio, Texas	7:00 p.m.

## SOCCER SCHEDULE

DATE/DAY	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
<b>AUGUST</b>			
7 Tue.	vs. Southeastern Louisiana	Foley, Ala.	10:00 a.m. (EXHIBITION)
11 Sat.	at Tennessee-Martin	Martin, Tenn.	12:30 p.m. (EXHIBITION)
17 Fri.	ALABAMA STATE	HOME	7:00 p.m.
19 Sun.	ALABAMA A&M	HOME	1:00 p.m.
24 Fri.	JACKSON STATE	HOME	7:00 p.m.
26 Sun.	at Tennessee Tech	Cookeville, Tenn.	6:00 p.m.
31 Fri.	at Jacksonville State	Jacksonville, Ala.	7:00 p.m.
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>			
2 Sun.	at Vanderbilt	Nashville, Tenn.	1:00 p.m.
7 Fri.	ABILENE CHRISTIAN	HOME	7:00 p.m.
9 Sun.	ALABAMA-BIRMINGHAM	HOME	1:00 p.m.
14 Fri.	at Tennessee-Chattanooga	Chattanooga, Tenn.	5:00 p.m.
16 Sun.	TROY	HOME	2:00 p.m.
23 Sun.*	KENNESAW STATE	HOME	4:00 p.m.
28 Fri.	* at Florida Gulf Coast	Fort Meyers, Fla.	6:00 p.m.
30 Sun.	* at Stetson	Deland, Fla.	12:00 p.m.
<b>OCTOBER</b>			
5 Fri.	* LIBERTY	HOME	7:00 p.m.
12 Fri.	* JACKSONVILLE	HOME	7:00 p.m.
14 Sun.*	NORTH FLORIDA	HOME	1:00 p.m.
19 Fri.	* at Lipscomb	Nashville, Tenn.	6:00 p.m.
21 Sun.	* at New Jersey Tech	Newark, N.J.	12:00 p.m.
27 Sat.	ASUN Tournament Quarterfinal	TBA	
<b>NOVEMBER</b>			
2 Fri.	ASUN Tournament Semifinal	TBA	
4 Sun.	ASUN Tournament Final	TBA	

## VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

DATE/DAY	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
<b>AUGUST</b>			
24 Fri.	vs Little Rock	Jacksonville, Ala.	9:00 a.m.
24 Fri.	at Jacksonville State	Jacksonville, Ala.	2:00 p.m.
25 Sat.	vs Mercer	Jacksonville, Ala.	11:30 a.m.
31 Fri.	vs Tennessee State	Chattanooga, Tenn.	2:00 p.m.
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>			
1 Sat.	vs UNC-Asheville	Chattanooga, Tenn.	9:00 a.m.
1 Sat.	at Chattanooga	Chattanooga, Tenn.	6:00 p.m.
7 Fri.	vs Tennessee Tech	Memphis, Tenn.	12:30 p.m.
7 Fri.	vs Louisiana Monroe	Memphis, Tenn.	4:30 p.m.
8 Sat.	at Memphis	Memphis, Tenn.	1:00 p.m.
18 Tue.*	at Lipscomb	Nashville, Tenn.	6:30 p.m.
23 Sun.*	KENNESAW STATE	HOME	2:00 p.m.
28 Fri.*	LIBERTY	HOME	7:00 p.m.
30 Sun.*	FLORIDA GULF COAST	HOME	2:00 p.m.
<b>OCTOBER</b>			
5 Fri.	* at Jacksonville	Jacksonville, Fla.	6:00 p.m.
6 Sat.	* at Stetson	Deland, Fla.	5:00 p.m.
9 Tue.	* at NJIT	Newark, N.J.	6:00 p.m.
14 Sun.*	NORTH FLORIDA	HOME	1:00 p.m.
19 Fri.	* at Kennesaw State	Kennesaw, Ga.	6:00 p.m.
23 Tue.*	LIPSCOMB	HOME	7:00 p.m.
26 Fri.	* at Florida Gulf Coast	Ft. Myers, Fla.	5:00 p.m.
28 Sun.*	at Liberty	Lynchburg, Va.	12:00 p.m.
<b>NOVEMBER</b>			
2 Fri.*	* STETSON	HOME	7:00 p.m.
4 Sun.*	JACKSONVILLE	HOME	1:00 p.m.
6 Tue.*	NJIT	HOME	7:00 p.m.
9 Fri.	* at North Florida	Jacksonville, Fla.	5:00 p.m.
15 Thu.	ASUN Volleyball Tournament	TBA	
16 Fri.	ASUN Volleyball Tournament	TBA	
17 Sat.	ASUN Volleyball Tournament	TBA	

## CROSS COUNTRY SCHEDULE

DATE/DAY	OPPONENT	SITE
<b>AUGUST</b>		
31 Fri.	at Belmont Opener • W5k / M5k	Nashville, Tenn.
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>		
8 Sat.	at UAH Chargers Cross Country Open • W5k / M8k	Huntsville, Ala.
22 Sat.	at Chile Pepper Cross Country Festival • W5k / M10k	Fayetteville, Ark.
29 Sat.	at Foothills Invitational • W5k / M7k	Oxford, Ala.
<b>OCTOBER</b>		
12 Fri.	at FSU Invitational • W5k / M8k	Tallahassee, Fla.
27 Fri.	at ASUN Conference Championships • W5k / M8k	Newark, N.J.

## PURCHASE YOUR SEASON TICKETS

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## **UNA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS**

Aaron Irons '99 President  
Derrick Chatman '08 President Elect  
Bishop Alexander '09 Vice President  
Tisha-Paige Brewer '13 2nd Vice President  
Christa Raney '97 Secretary  
Raleigh Green '10 Treasurer  
Michelle Eubanks '96 Past President  
Gale Satchel '06 Club Advisor  
Pat Roden '77 Faculty Advisor

## **UNA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Gloria Aday '70  
Bucky Beaver '64  
Andy Betterton '75  
Robbie Burdine '12  
Pat Burney '88  
Anna Wilson Burnley '97  
Stephanie Coleman '82  
Ryan '01 & Lisa '00 Clayton  
Mary Leigh Gilespie '96  
Clayton Grider '08  
Jordan Graham '14  
Chase Hagood '04  
Jan Hannah '89  
Will Hodges '10  
Jan Ingle '85  
Savannah Liles '11  
Eric Kirkman '97 & '00  
Justin McGill '12  
Jean McIntyre '65  
Ana Fuller Pannell '06  
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Larry Softley '89 & '08  
Katherine Fowler Stone '02 & '04  
Linda Vaughan '70

## **UNA ALUMNI CLUB LEADERS**

### **ALABAMA**

Birmingham • Chris Burrell '02  
Shoals Area • Elaine Witt '76  
Shoals Area • Larry Softley '89  
Decatur/Morgan County • Zac '02 & Laura '03 Richardson  
Huntsville • Laurentis Barnett '03  
Mountain Lakes • Stan Mannon '85  
Tuscaloosa • Jim Page '01

### **GEORGIA**

Atlanta • Carnette Johnson '83

### **MISSISSIPPI**

Central Mississippi • Kathy Fletcher '74  
Tupelo Area • Keith Henley '89  
East Central Mississippi • Mike Thorn '82

### **TENNESSEE**

Memphis • Coleman Barron '14  
Nashville • Jamie Ellis '08

### **BAND ASSOCIATION**

Jeff McCrary '83

### **GEOGRAPHY**

Jessie Baker '12

### **SOCIAL WORK**

Stacy Lee '01

### **BLACK ALUMNI**

Nikki Durr '00

## **message from the ALUMNI PRESIDENT**



Aaron R. Irons '99

Dear University of North Alabama Alumni and Friends,

"There is no higher religion than human service. To work for the common good is the greatest creed." President Woodrow Wilson, the man for whom the great dam that tames the Tennessee River in the Shoals Area is named, said this about service to others. As I reflect upon the year, I am honored and thankful to have been given the opportunity to serve my fellow University of North Alabama alumni.

I am excited to announce that we have completed our named Alumni Association room pledge in the Mitchell Burford Science and Technology Building ahead of schedule. In addition, your Alumni Association will be naming an area within the Collier Library, continuing our legacy of leaving lasting impressions upon the University of

North Alabama for generations to come.

The Alumni Association will be hosting our outdoor dinner party Lions Under the Lights on September 28th. This unique culinary experience is set under the lights of the cobblestone paths adjacent to the Harrison Plaza fountain. If you have not already purchased your tickets, please contact the Alumni Office or visit the website before they are sold out. This spring we had a wonderful Alumni Summit, we have streamlined our online presence, and we have increased our Alumni Club activities. We have an exciting schedule of events for Homecoming, including the Alumni Awards Banquet, Jack Karnes Memorial Golf Tournament, reunions, parade, tailgate, and the homecoming football game. I hope you will "make time to take time" to come home to UNA during this very special time of year.

I am proud of the support our Alumni and Friends have given President Kitts as it pertains to Project 208. The mission to obtain equitable funding for UNA is paramount. I am pleased of the progress that has been made thus far, obtaining a 6.12% increase in funding for the University. However, we must double down on our efforts and continue to make those in positions to affect change aware of this disparity.

The fruits of our university are wonderful, but without growth and change, our university will die on the proverbial vine. The addition of degree programs and the creation of the Honors College, along with new and revitalized facilities, have allowed our university to produce some of the most talented and career-ready graduates ever. The University has the largest MBA program in the state of Alabama; the Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions boasts the highest NCLEX pass rate in Alabama; UNA offers Engineering Technology and Chemical Engineering programs; 500 students major in Health, Physical Education and Recreation; and doctoral programs are on the horizon.

As the University continues to grow, it is important for my fellow alumni never to forget our university's rich heritage, to remember how it was during your time spent here, and to be proud of the changes that continue to propel our university and its graduates to the top. I encourage you to share your UNA story with fellow alumni and friends, and to keep in mind that there is no better way to positively influence a potential student or their family than by sharing your story.

Roar Lions!

**Aaron R. Irons '99**

2017-2018 Alumni Association President



## 2018 HOMECOMING SCHEDULE

### Thursday, October 11

NPHC Stroll Off ..... 7:00 p.m.  
TICKET REQUIRED • Norton Auditorium

14th Geography Alumni Conference ..... 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Wesleyan Hall  
FOR INFORMATION ABOUT CONFERENCE • [unagaa.org](http://unagaa.org)

### Friday, October 12

Jack Karnes Memorial Golf Tournament ... 8:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.  
Cypress Lakes Golf Course • 1311 E. 6th Street • Muscle Shoals  
REGISTRATION REQUIRED  
256.765.4201 • [una.edu/alumni/homecoming](http://una.edu/alumni/homecoming)

14th Geography Alumni Conference ..... 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Wesleyan Hall

Alumni Awards Banquet..... 6:00-8:00 p.m.  
Guillot University Center • Banquet Halls  
REGISTRATION REQUIRED  
256.765.4201 • [una.edu/alumni/homecoming](http://una.edu/alumni/homecoming)

UNA Soccer vs. Jacksonville..... 7:00 p.m.  
TICKET REQUIRED • UNA Soccer Field/Practice Field

Pep Rally..... 9:00 p.m.  
UNA Soccer Field/Practice Field

### Saturday, October 13

Homecoming 5K ..... 8:00 a.m.  
University of North Alabama • Harrison Fountain  
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

SGA Past Officer's Breakfast..... 8:00 a.m.  
Guillot University Center • Loft  
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

UNA Athletic Hall of Fame ..... 9:00 a.m.  
Guillot University Center • Performance Center

Honors College Coffee Social ..... 9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.  
*Current Students, Alumni, Faculty and Friends of the Honors College*  
University of North Alabama • Gunn Commons • Starbucks

Homecoming Parade ..... 11:00 a.m.  
Downtown Florence

Collier Library Archives Exhibit ..... 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.  
University of North Alabama • Collier Library

Golden Lions Reunion Class of 1968 ..... 12:00 p.m.  
*Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration of the Florence State College Class of 1968*  
University of North Alabama • Rogers Hall • Dining Room  
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Homecoming Matinee:  
Disney's "Christopher Robin" ..... 1:00 p.m.  
Doors Open at 12:30 p.m. • Limited Seating  
Guillot University Center • Performance Center

Tailgating ..... 3:00 - 5:30 p.m.  
Braly Stadium • Spirit Hill & Spirit Quad • Florence

Lion Walk ..... 4:00 p.m.  
Royal Avenue to Braly Stadium • Florence

Pre-Game Show ..... 5:20 p.m.  
FOOTBALL GAME TICKET REQUIRED • Braly Stadium • Florence

UNA Football vs. Mississippi College ..... 6:00 p.m.  
TICKET REQUIRED • Braly Stadium • Florence

Office of Alumni Relations • **256.765.4201**

REGISTER ONLINE AT  
[una.edu/alumni/homecoming](http://una.edu/alumni/homecoming)



## UNIVERSITY TAPS ALUMNUS KIRKMAN '97 FOR DIRECTOR OF KILBY LABORATORY SCHOOL POSITION



**Dr. Eric Kirkman '97**, former Sheffield Junior High principal, is the new director of Kilby Laboratory School.

Kirkman replaced Dr. Chris James June 1. James, who has served as the Kilby director for three years, was recently named associate professor in the College of Education.

Kirkman has spent the last 19 years in education and said he looks at this new position as an opportunity to maximize his talents.

"This position is great, because not only am I getting to work with school-age students, but college students as well," said Kirkman. "I now get to engage all facets of my passions as I work with young students and aspiring educators alike. This will all be accomplished at my alma mater, which has done so much for me and my career as an educator and active community member."

Kirkman said first steps included becoming familiar with the current Kilby budget and academic programs, the schedule and what resources will be at his disposal.

"From there, I want to tap into the stakeholders and get their input regarding some goals for the upcoming year. I desire to have my finger on the pulse of the school culture and then plan accordingly," he said.

Kirkman said he also has some changes in mind as well.

"I would like to make some cosmetic changes to the building to add some school colors and 'UNA Spirit' to the Kilby campus," he said. "I also would like to establish a leadership council out of the student body to not only serve as the 'student council' for the school, but to also serve as student ambassadors."

Kirkman said he plans to use the oversight and proximity to UNA as a way to reach out to the University to create opportunities for Kilby students to engage in service activities as they learn more about the various departments and colleges on campus.

"I want to connect Kilby to the University as much as possible and the community," Kirkman said.

Kirkman '97  
AS A MEMBER OF THE MARCHING BAND



**Travel with the Lions!**  
[una.edu/alumni/travel](http://una.edu/alumni/travel)



**HOMECOMING  
ALUMNI AWARDS 2018**

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT**

Mr. Joel Anderson '15  
*Florence, AL*

**ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR**

Dr. David Sunseri '98  
*Nashville, TN*

**EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR**

Dr. Lisa Graves-Minor '80  
*Tuscumbia, AL*

**POLITICAL SERVICE**

The Honorable Chris Jackson '11  
*Loretto, TN*

**FACULTY/STAFF SERVICE**

Dr. Matthew Schoenbachler '89  
*Florence, AL*

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Ms. Carnette Robinson Johnson '83  
*Snellville, GA*

**MILITARY SERVICE**

CPT John Morgan '91  
*Harker Heights, TX*

**FRIEND OF THE UNIVERSITY**

Mr. Bill Matthews  
*Killen, AL*

**ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME**

Mr. Jerry Hill '81  
*Football 1977-80*

Ms. Jessica Liddy Wallace '07  
*Softball 2004-07*

Ms. Emry McKay Bryan '07  
*Cross Country 2004-06*

Mr. Carl Wilmer  
*Basketball 1990-91*



# CLASS NOTES

## 1960s

### **Robert McKenzie '62**

was recently inducted into the Colbert County Sports Hall of Fame. McKenzie was a celebrated player in basketball, baseball and track. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education in History.

**Charles Pate '67** recently published a book on the Civil War. An ROTC graduate, he began research at the National Archives in 1977 while stationed in Washington, D.C. Since then he has published over 150 articles and three earlier books, primarily on U.S. military small arms.

## 1970s

**Ron Russell '71** was inducted into the Colbert County Sports Hall of Fame for his work on fitness development programs. Russell graduated with a Bachelor of Science.

**Dr. Ann Roy-Moore '75** has been named as the new Montgomery County superintendent, after serving as the interim superintendent. Roy-Moore previously served as superintendent as Huntsville City Schools. She graduated with a Master of Science in Education.

## 1980s

### **Glenda Colagross '83**

& '90 has been named president of Northwest-Shoals Community College. Colagross has over 25 years of experience in Alabama's two-year college system. She

graduated with Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts degrees.

**Wes Sigler '88** has been named CEO of the University of Mississippi Medical Center-Grenada and UMMC Holmes County. Sigler graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting.

**Ruth Ann Holt '89 & '91** was named vice president for student affairs over all Columbia State Community College locations. Holt graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English.

**Anne Whitaker '89** has been selected as a member of the Board of Directors for Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals, a leading global specialty pharmaceutical company. Whitaker has over 25 years of experience in pharmaceuticals and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry.

## 1990s

**Mike Elkins '90** has been elected to serve two years on the Alabama Retail Association's Board of Directors. Elkins serves as president of Unclaimed Baggage Center in Scottsboro. He has served as president of this well-known Alabama company for the past five years. Elkins graduated with a bachelor's in Finance.

**Brent Turpen '91 & '94** has joined Pinnacle Financial Partners as a financial analyst. Turpen graduated with Bachelor of Science and Master of Business Administration degrees.

**Will Sites '95** was the recipient of the Governor's Award for Excellence in Education for Lincoln University. Sites is an assistant professor of journalism at the university. He graduated with a bachelor's in Communication Arts in Journalism.

**Stephen Porter '96** has been named the new Athens High School Band Director. Porter recently served as the Hanceville High School Band Director. He graduated from UNA with a bachelor's degree in Music Performance.

**Dr. Barclay Key '97** is currently a professor of American History at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock. He recently presented a discussion of the Oregon Plan along with other historical Arkansas events. Key graduated with a Bachelor of Science in History.

**Dr. Eric Kirkman '97** was selected as director of the Kilby Laboratory School. He has 19 years of experience as an educator, and previously served as principal of Sheffield Junior High School in Sheffield, Alabama. Dr. Kirkman earned a Bachelor of Music Education in 1997.

**Dr. Mark Laughlin '98** assisted Snead State Community College Music Department by serving as the guest pianist in the college's annual jazz showcase as well as the leader of the intermediate improvisation class of the college's clinic. Laughlin graduated with a bachelor of music degree in piano performance.

**Ricardo Rivas '99** was named as chief executive officer at Allied Orion Group.

Rivas has served as principal and chief investment officer at Allied Orion Group and plans to spearhead the company's vision with his new role. Rivas graduated with a bachelor's degree and a Master of Business Administration degree.

## 2000s

**Rich Curtis '00** served as the juror for the 20th annual All-Media Student Exhibition hosted by VSU. Curtis reviewed over 150 works and chose around 60 to include in the exhibition. Curtis serves as assistant professor of art at Thomas University. He graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting.

**Deborah Kenyon '01** has been hired as the new principal of Tanner High School. Kenyon has been an educator for the last 17 years. Most recently, she served as assistant principal of Tanner High School. Kenyon graduated with a Master of Arts in Education from UNA in 2001.

**Dwight Watson '01** serves as assistant women's basketball coach at Randolph-Macon College in Virginia. Randolph-Macon has acquired a spot in the NCAA Division III Tournament, with Watson's help, after winning the Old Dominion Athletic Conference Championship. Watson graduated with a Bachelor of Science.

**Dr. Chris James '02** has been named associate professor of instructional leadership in the UNA College of Education. For the last three years, Dr. James has served as the director of the

Kilby Laboratory School. Dr. James earned a Master of Arts in Education in 2002.

**James Moore '02** was selected to serve as Head Football Coach at East Lawrence High School. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Education in Health, Physical Education, and Recreation.

**Jonlee Sasser '09** has been hired at Clay-Chalkville High School as the assistant football coach. He recently served as assistant football coach at Cullman High School.

**Stephenie T. Smith '09 & '14** was recently selected a "Sweet 16" finalist for Alabama Teacher of the Year, one of eight secondary teachers represented in her district. She was previously selected as Teacher of the Year for Buckhorn Middle School as well as in Madison City Schools.

**Mitch Hill '08** has been announced as the head baseball coach at Martin Methodist College in Pulaski, Tennessee. He previously held the position of head baseball coach at Alabama A&M University. Hill graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Health, Physical Education, and Recreation.

## 2010s

**Traci Hite '12** has been hired as Regional Promotional Manager at Word Entertainment. Hite recently worked at Capitol Christian Music Group. She graduated with a degree in Communication Arts.



## SPRING COMMENCEMENT FEATURES **FLORIDA STATE SENATOR and Alumna Annette Taddeo '92**

University of North Alabama alumna and Florida State Sen. Annette Taddeo '92, was the featured commencement speaker at the University of North Alabama spring graduation ceremonies.

Born to an American World War II and Korean War fighter pilot and a Colombian mother, Annette Taddeo's family fled an unstable Colombia when she was 17 and relocated to Miami to build a better life. That decision would prove to be a life changer in many ways for Taddeo, culminating in her most recent election.

On Sept. 26, 2017, Taddeo was elected Florida State Senator for District 40. This was the first time in Florida's history that a Democrat had flipped a seat from red to blue in a special election. She also made history



by becoming the first Latina Democrat to serve in the Florida Senate.

However, her Florida beginnings were much more humble. Taddeo worked hard to learn English and earn admission to college. She was able to pay for school through Pell grants and waiting tables, and ultimately turned her experience into a business.

After helping her parents rebuild their home in Perrine in the wake of Hurricane Andrew, Taddeo set out to build her own business, providing translation services. Today, Language Speak provides translations in more than 240 languages and has been named one of the top 100 small businesses in Florida, and one of the top 500 small businesses in the United States.

Taddeo is the wife of Dr. Eric Goldstein and mom to their 11-year-old daughter, Sofia.



# IN MEMORY

## Years Unidentified

### Patrick Mark Bridges

March 12, 1950 – April 21, 2018

### Diane Caffee

1956 – April 28, 2018

### Raymond Kirby McCraney

November 5, 1945 – 2018

### Dennis Papczynski

July 7, 1948 – March 28, 2018

### Amy Wright Ricks

May 16, 1925 – May 21, 2018

### Orval Pounders

May 16, 2018

### Roger Wayne Miller

May 18, 2018

### Gabriel Allen Williams

April 10, 1972 – July 7, 2016

### Margaret Manuel McLaurin

February 28, 2018

### Carl Thomas Faires

September 28, 1938 – June 23, 2018

## Friends of the University

### Roy L. Maner

April 11, 1929 – January 4, 2018

### James Carson Triplett

May 20, 1930 – March 30, 2018

### George M. VanSant

September 2, 2017

### Betty H. VanSant

July 30, 1930 – July 17, 2016

### Dorothy M. Pinkard

April 6, 1927 – January 7, 2016

### Richard Butler

June 22, 2006

### Richard Alan Scott

May 2, 1935 – August 23, 2010

### Ruth W. Warren

May 27, 1927 – October 20, 2017

### William B. Watson, Jr.

December 1, 1946 – February 5, 2012

### William F. Waldkirch

May 7, 1923 – February 25, 2017

### Judith K. Tricoli

May 5, 1943 – June 21, 2010

### Bartolomeo Tricoli

March 13, 1925 – April 22, 2016

### William B. Campbell

February 20, 1932 – June 11, 2014

### Margaret Hunter

December 14, 2016

## Jane Gunter

October 24, 1921 – August 26, 2016

## William G. Huddleston

April 4, 1949 – October 6, 2015

## Noel Moore

November 24, 1925 – December 6, 2006

## Faculty and Staff

### Raymond Marshall Emanuel

November 28, 1945 – April 10, 2018

## 1940s

### Kathleen Thompson '40

May 16, 1920 – March 2018

### Floy B. Strange '49

September 26, 1925 – December 22, 2017

## 1950s

### Barbara Wade Cox '50

November 29, 1928 – March 31, 2018

### Sarah Alice Carter '50

November 2, 1928 – March 12, 2018

### Howard Roberts '54

July 15, 1929 – March 6, 2018

### Joe Brewer '55

January 4, 1930 – March 27, 2018

### Connie Gene Creel '58

December 4, 1930 – November 14, 2016

### Charles Herbert Jackson '58

February 12, 2018

### Harvey D. Wickware '59

September 20, 1932 – May 28, 2017

## 1960s

### Frank Fleming '62

June 17, 1940 – March 18, 2018

### Patricia Ann Smith '62

July 20, 1941 – December 18, 2015

### Doyle Wayne Friel '64

August 25, 1939 – May 4, 2010

### James Kenneth Scott, Sr. '64

November 4, 1941 – June 16, 2018

### Vernon S. Brown, Jr. '67

2018

### Helen Tittle '68

March 24, 1928 – November 2, 2010

### William Gary Clark '69

February 20, 2018

### Mary W. Morrison '69

July 12, 1934 – July 18, 2013

## 1970s

### Joyce Maples '70

January 29, 1947 – April 7, 2018

### Ramon Navarro Sharbutt '72

November 28, 1945 – February 15, 2015

### Rayford C. Henry '73

August 7, 1913 – December 17, 1996

### Carmon P. Coker '74

October 26, 1951 – April 5, 2018

### Charles Looser, Jr. '77

August 6, 1927 – April 25, 2014

## 1980s

### Sandy Bell '81

October 20, 1955 – March 25, 2018

### Shirley McDowell '82

March 11, 1960 – April 17, 2018

### Kent Lenox '82

August 13, 1959 – May 15, 2016

### Greer Marise Slade '82

August 16, 1947 – March 13, 2018

### Commella Dean Simmons Jones '88

December 24, 1924 – September 9, 2010

### Christopher Vann Grissett '87

July 18, 1964 – October 1, 2016

## 1990s

### Steven Roger Kroes '91

April 22, 1968 – April 18, 2018

### Ray Curtis Taylor '95

May 4, 1954 – April 23, 2018

### Betty Jean Willerton '95

December 13, 1944 – July 5, 2017

### Amy Beth Evans Wampler '98

January 27, 1976 – April 29, 2018

### Robert B. Leo '95

January 13, 1949 – January 9, 2006

## 2000s

### Ashley Ranae Hobson '04

January 30, 1980 – April 30, 2018

## 2010s

### Leila Phillips '10

August 13, 1957 – April 14, 2018

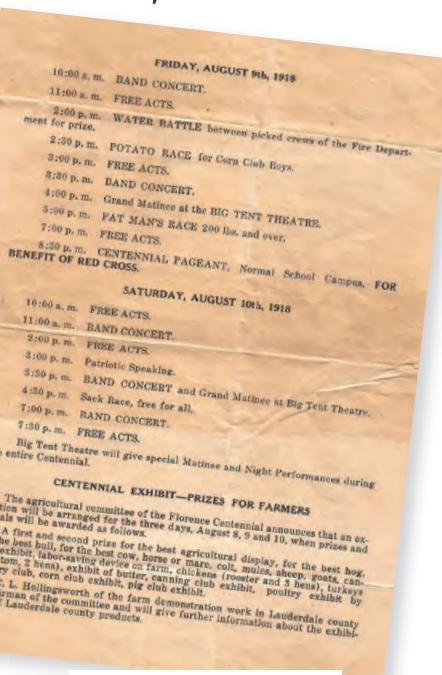
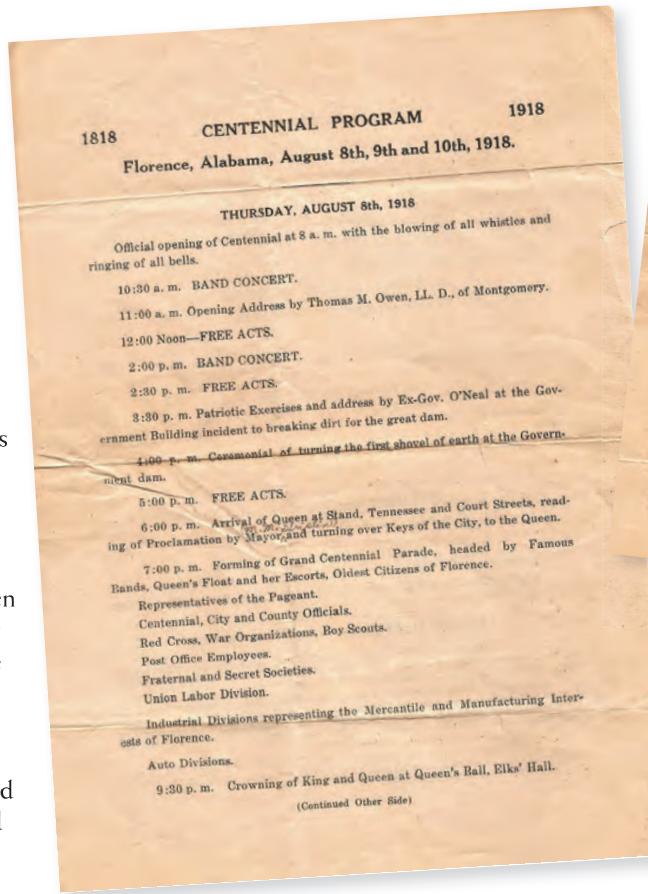
# EXCERPTS from the ARCHIVES



Students from the State Normal School participate in the Florence Centennial Pageant on a stage constructed on campus for that event.

Founded on March 12, 1818, Florence is celebrating its bicentennial with a number of special events. One of the major events for the city's centennial celebration held August 8-10, 1918 was a Centennial Pageant and Masque presented on the State Normal School campus. The pageant was written by faculty member, Susan K. Vaughn and staged by Cora Bell Morse of New York. The music was performed by Memoli's band of Birmingham. The pageant involved 200 players. It was staged at the location of today's UNA Memorial Amphitheater. The lay of the land formed a natural amphitheater and the capacity to seat an audience of 5000 above the cove. A wooden stage was erected for the event and served as the campus stage until the completion of the current amphitheater in 1934. The pageant concluded with a ball, which the players attended in costume. Proceeds benefited the Red Cross.

## HAPPY 200<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY, CITY of FLORENCE!



# LION TRACKS

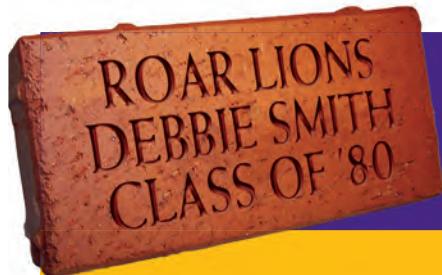
## LEAVE YOUR TRACKS ON A LIVING TRADITION

The University of North Alabama has made great impressions on the lives of many alumni and friends of the University. Now, you have the opportunity to leave a permanent mark on campus with an engraved brick. Help further the mission of UNA with your contribution.

Bricks are laid in one of two primary locations, the Victory Flame Garden and The Commons walkway. Each marker can feature the graduate's name, year of graduation, specific major or extracurricular activity (fraternity or sorority affiliation,

football or other sport, band, SGA, etc.). The cost of each 4-by-8-inch brick is \$100, which includes three lines of text at a maximum of 20 characters per row. All proceeds from brick orders will benefit the 1830 Fund, which supports immediate campus needs.

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to commemorate and celebrate your personal contribution to the rich tradition of excellence that has flourished and thrived at UNA since 1830. Your gift is 100 percent tax deductible.



*Give a gift that stands the test of time!*  
**PERFECT FOR: Graduation • Birthdays • Holidays**

### CONTACT

Office of Alumni Relations • UNA Box 5075 • Florence, AL 35632-0001 • 256.765.5080



### ALUMNI INFORMATION UPDATE

Name (include maiden name if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Year(s) and Major(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Business telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

**I want to get involved with UNA alumni in my area...**

- |   |                                       |  |                                    |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Club Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Homecoming   | <input type="checkbox"/> Alumni Committee Assignment | <input type="checkbox"/> Mentoring |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Athletic Events        | <input type="checkbox"/> Board Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Recruit Students            | <input type="checkbox"/> Reunions  |

Have you won an award, changed jobs, earned a promotion or completed another degree?

Your UNA classmates would like to know more about it! Send us your news and we will publish it in a subsequent issue of the *University of North Alabama Magazine*. Please complete the form and send it to the Office of Alumni Relations, UNA Box 5047, Florence, AL 35632-0001 or e-mail to [alumni1@una.edu](mailto:alumni1@una.edu).

[una.edu/alumni](http://una.edu/alumni)

**UPDATE YOUR RECORDS**

# Tell them where you're from with a brand new UNA tag!

Not only are you showing your pride, but you're also helping students achieve success!  
Every time you purchase your UNA car tag, \$47.50\* of your \$50 fee  
will go directly to student scholarships.

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### ***Just how impactful is this?***

Money raised from the purchase of car tags allowed UNA to award **\$60K** in scholarships this year!

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# SAVE THE DATE!

**UNA**  
*Giving Day*  
MARCH 5, 2019

You will have 24 hours to make a difference at UNA.  
On this day, you can give online and share your pride  
with alumni and friends.